

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, September 19, 2005
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Editor's Note: The President was at Camp David, MD, on September 16, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Week Ending Friday, September 16, 2005

**Proclamation 7926—Minority
Enterprise Development Week, 2005**
September 9, 2005

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Across our country, the entrepreneurial spirit of minority businesses is strong and growing. By creating jobs and advancing opportunities, these businesses improve lives and transform neighborhoods throughout our Nation. During Minority Enterprise Development Week, we recognize minority entrepreneurs and their employees for their commitment to free enterprise and equal opportunity.

Minority businesses are an essential part of a society in which personal initiative is encouraged and in which opportunity is within the reach of all of our citizens. Significant increases in minority business ownership are providing an engine for economic growth and helping more of our citizens succeed. By fueling job creation and providing goods and services to consumers, these businesses are helping to lift communities and provide hope.

In order to extend the promise of our country to all of our citizens, our economy must continue to grow and expand. My Administration is working to keep taxes low, protect small businesses from needless regulation and frivolous lawsuits, and reduce global trade barriers to open up new markets for American entrepreneurs. We have provided new market tax credits to boost investment and community development in low-income areas, and we are working to stimulate and support minority businesses by providing training and mentoring.

Minority businesses help ensure that our country is a land of opportunity. Their example reflects the best qualities of America, demonstrating that every person has the op-

portunity to strive for a better future and to take part in the promise of our great Nation.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 11 through September 17, 2005, as Minority Enterprise Development Week. I call upon all Americans to celebrate this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities to recognize the important contributions of our Nation's minority enterprises.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 13, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 14. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Proclamation 7927—National
Historically Black Colleges and
Universities Week, 2005**
September 9, 2005

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities are places of learning and achievement that reflect our Nation's belief in the great potential of every student. By upholding high standards of excellence and providing equal educational opportunities to all Americans, these valued institutions help ensure that all our citizens can realize their

full potential and look forward to a prosperous and hopeful future.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) are a source of accomplishment and great pride for the African-American community and our entire Nation. By fostering academic achievement, instilling strong values and character, and equipping students with a quality education, they prepare rising generations for success and help fulfill our country's commitment to equal education.

My Administration is committed to supporting HBCUs and making higher education more affordable and more accessible. To ensure that more students have access to a college or university education, I have requested nearly \$300 million for HBCUs in my 2006 budget, a record level of funding that would represent an increase in spending for these institutions by 30 percent during my Administration. Through the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, we are pursuing new ways to strengthen and advance HBCUs through endowments, faculty development, and cooperative research.

America has made significant progress in strengthening our higher education system for all our citizens, and there is more work to do. We continue to strive toward a society in which every person can realize the great promise of America. During National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week, we recognize the contributions of HBCUs, and we acknowledge and celebrate their role in making America a stronger and better Nation.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 11 through September 17, 2005, as National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week. I call on public officials, educators, administrators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities that demonstrate our appreciation for the many contributions these valuable institutions and their graduates have made to our country.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 13, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 14. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7928—National Days of Prayer and Remembrance, 2005
September 9, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Americans will always remember the terrible events and violent cruelty of September 11, 2001. We will always honor the many innocent lives that were lost, and we will never forget the heroism of passengers, first responders, and others on that day. During this year's National Days of Prayer and Remembrance, we pay tribute to the memory of those taken from us in the terrorist attacks in New York, in Pennsylvania, and at the Pentagon. We pray for the families left behind who continue to inspire us through their steadfast character, courage, and determination.

In the time since September 11, 2001, Americans have come together to defend America and advance freedom. We are grateful to our brave men and women in uniform who are making daily sacrifices at home and at posts around the globe, and we pray for their safety as they defend our liberty. In the war on terror, we have lost good men and women who left our shores to protect our way of life and did not live to make the journey home. We honor their memories, and we pray for their families.

The war that began for America on September 11, 2001, continues to call on the courage of our men and women in uniform and the perseverance of our citizens. The

past 4 years have brought many challenges and sacrifices, yet we have much reason to be thankful and hopeful about the future. America has become more secure as terrorists have been brought to justice, two of the most brutal and aggressive regimes have ended, and freedom has spread in the Middle East and around the world. In the months and years ahead, we will continue to defend our freedom and lay the foundations of peace for our children and grandchildren.

During these Days of Prayer and Remembrance, we give thanks to the Almighty for our freedom, and we acknowledge our dependence on the Giver of this gift. Four years after September 11, 2001, we remember the lives lost and pray for God's continued blessings on their families and our Nation.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Friday, September 9, through Sunday, September 11, 2005, as National Days of Prayer and Remembrance. I ask that the people of the United States and places of worship mark these National Days of Prayer and Remembrance with memorial services and other appropriate ceremonies.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 13, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 14. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7929—Patriot Day, 2005

September 9, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Four years have passed since our country was brutally attacked on a quiet September morning. On that day, thousands of innocent lives were taken from us. The victims and the families who lost loved ones remain in the hearts and prayers of our Nation. We also remember the courage of the firefighters, police officers, emergency rescue personnel, and scores of private citizens who showed us the true meaning of heroism and demonstrated our resolve to the world.

The mission that began on September 11, 2001, continues. Today, we see the virtue of the September 11th heroes embodied in our military personnel, who are taking the fight to our enemies and helping to keep us safe at home. Thousands of other Americans, from intelligence analysts to border guards to countless others, are doing vital work to help defend America and prevent future attacks. We are grateful to all of these men and women and to their families for their service and sacrifice. We honor those who have lost their lives defending our freedom, and we pray that God comfort their families. We pledge that we will not rest until we have won the war on terror.

As we mark this solemn anniversary, I call upon all our citizens to express their patriotism and their gratitude for the blessings of liberty. By flying the flag, supporting military families, and teaching young people about our founding ideals, we honor the lives lost on September 11, 2001, and since, and we help preserve our freedom for future generations.

By a joint resolution approved December 18, 2001 (Public Law 107-89), the Congress has designated September 11 of each year as "Patriot Day."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 11, 2005, as Patriot Day. I call upon the Governors of the United States and the Commonwealth of

Puerto Rico, as well as appropriate officials of all units of government, to direct that the flag be flown at half-staff on Patriot Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe Patriot Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities, including remembrance services, to display the flag at half-staff from their homes on that day, and to observe a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 a.m. eastern daylight time to honor the innocent victims who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 13, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 14. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Memorandum on Waiving
Prohibition on United States Military
Assistance with Respect to Benin**
September 9, 2005

Presidential Determination No. 2005-34

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Waiving Prohibition on United States Military Assistance with Respect to Benin

Consistent with the authority vested in me by section 2007 of the American Servicemembers' Protection Act of 2002 (the "Act"), title II of Public Law 107-206 (22 U.S.C. 7421 *et seq.*), I hereby:

- Determine that Benin has entered into an agreement with the United States pursuant to Article 98 of the Rome Statute preventing the International Criminal Court from proceeding against U.S. personnel present in such country; and
- Waive the prohibition of section 2007(a) of the Act with respect to this country

for as long as such agreement remains in force.

You are authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 16, 2005]

NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on September 19. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address
September 10, 2005

Good morning. On Sunday, our Nation will observe the fourth anniversary of the September the 11th terrorist attacks. Every American has memories of that day that will never leave them. We remember the images of fire and terror at the Pentagon, in Pennsylvania, and in the heart of New York City.

We remember the ruthlessness of those who murdered the innocent and took joy in their suffering. We remember the courage of the police and firefighters and rescue personnel who rushed into burning buildings to save lives, knowing they might never emerge. And we remember the victims, moms and dads, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, and the loved ones they left behind.

As night fell on America on September the 11th, 2001, we felt grief and great sorrow. Yet we also saw that while the terrorists could kill the innocent, they could not defeat the spirit of our Nation. The despair and tragedy of that day were overcome by displays of selflessness, courage, and compassion.

And in the days and weeks that followed, America answered history's call to bring justice to our enemies and to ensure the survival and success of liberty. And that mission continues today.

Four years later, Americans remember the fears and uncertainty and confusion of that terrible morning. But above all, we remember the resolve of our Nation to defend our

freedom, rebuild a wounded city, and care for our neighbors in need.

Today, America is confronting another disaster that has caused destruction and loss of life. This time the devastation resulted not from the malice of evil men but from the fury of water and wind.

Hurricane Katrina flattened entire towns along our gulf coast and left one of America's most storied cities under water. Tens of thousands have lost homes and loved ones and all their earthly possessions. The storm took countless lives and forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee from their communities, with no assurance of returning soon.

Once more, our hearts ache for our fellow citizens, and many are left with questions about the future. Yet we are again being reminded that adversity brings out the best in the American spirit. In this time of great suffering, we have seen the courage and determination of rescue personnel who willingly risk their lives to save the lives of others. We have seen the spirit of America's armies of compassion who have rallied in response to this tragedy. Faith-based organizations and community groups and individual citizens across the country are caring for those affected by the storm and comforting those whose loved ones are lost or missing. Across our country, Americans are generously opening their homes and hearts to their brothers and sisters in need.

To find out how you can help, I urge you to visit usafreedomcorps.gov or call 1-877-USA-CORPS. The citizens of the gulf coast can count on their fellow Americans in this time of trial, and their Government is standing with them as well.

This week I signed legislation providing an additional \$52 billion for response and recovery efforts. We have already begun distributing \$2,000 in emergency relief to every displaced household, money they can use immediately for food, clothing, and other essentials. I have also called for all people from disaster areas to be granted special evacuee status, making it easier for them to collect Federal benefits like food stamps and Medicaid wherever they are in America.

We are assisting the victims of Hurricane Katrina, and we will help the people of the gulf coast recover from adversity. Despite all

they've endured, the people of that region are determined to rebuild their homes and reclaim their lives, and their fellow Americans are determined to help them. To accomplish the difficult work ahead of us, our Nation will call upon our vast resources and the ingenuity of our citizens, and these will be required in full measure.

Our greatest resource in such times is the compassionate character of the American people, because even the most destructive storm cannot weaken the heart and soul of our Nation. America will overcome this ordeal, and we will be stronger for it. Even in the deepest darkness, we can see the light of hope, and the light shows us the way forward. We will honor the memory of those we have lost. We will comfort the victims of Katrina, and we will make the gulf coast more vibrant than ever.

In all that lies before us, may God watch over the United States of America.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:50 a.m. on September 9 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on September 10. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 9 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Memorandum on the 2005 Combined Federal Campaign

September 9, 2005

*Memorandum for the Heads of Executive
Departments and Agencies*

Subject: 2005 Combined Federal Campaign

The Secretary of Transportation, Norman Y. Mineta, has agreed to serve as the Chair of the 2005 Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area (CFC-NCA). I ask you to enthusiastically support the CFC by personally chairing the campaign in your agency and by encouraging top agency officials around the country to do the same.

The Combined Federal Campaign is an important way for Federal employees to support thousands of worthy charities. Public servants not only contribute to the campaign

but also assume leadership roles to ensure its success.

Your personal support and enthusiasm will help positively influence thousands of employees and will result in another successful campaign.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 12.

Remarks on the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and an Exchange With Reporters in New Orleans, Louisiana

September 12, 2005

The President. I want to thank the Governor for joining us today and thank the mayor for joining us. My impression of New Orleans is this, that there is a recovery on the way. There's progress being made, but there's a lot of serious and hard work that's yet to be done.

I was briefed today about the search and rescue that continues. I was also briefed about the different projects that are taking place. There's a containment of an oil spill. The electricity is beginning to be turned back on. The mayor is anxious, of course, to get parts of the city up and running, but he's also mindful that there's a lot of work to be done for that to happen.

General Honore and Admiral Allen briefed us as well about the close coordination between the Federal Government, State government, and local government, all aimed at solving problems. And we just came through an area that had had substantial water in it, and the dewatering is an indication that the city is moving forward. But I'll repeat, we got a lot of work to do, a whole lot of work to do. And my pledge again to the Governor and the mayor is, the Federal Government will work closely in coordination with their authorities.

You know, one of the things that the people are beginning to think about is the long-term revival of New Orleans, for example, or the surrounding parishes. My attitude is this: The people of New Orleans can design the vision; the people of New Orleans can

lay out what New Orleans ought to look like in the future; and the Federal Government will help. The people of Louisiana can lay out their vision of what Louisiana will look like, and the Federal Government can help. I think the best policy is one in which the Federal Government doesn't come down and say, "Here's what your city will look like." The best policy is one where the local folks say, "Here's what we want our city to look like, and let's work together to achieve that vision."

And so I—as we're beginning to get through this recovery phase and the rescue phase and the transitional phase—recovery phase—we're beginning to think through the—how to reconstitute this really important State as well as along the Mississippi coast, as well.

At any rate, again, I want to thank you all for being here. I appreciate you taking time out.

I'll answer a couple of questions. Yes.

Allegations of Racism

Q. Sir, what do you make of some of the comments that have been made by quite a number of people that there was a racial component to some of the people that were left behind and left without help?

The President. My attitude is this: The storm didn't discriminate, and neither will the recovery effort. When those Coast Guard choppers, many of whom were first on the scene, were pulling people off roofs, they didn't check the color of a person's skin. They wanted to save lives.

I can assure people from the—and I know from the State and local level as well that this recovery is going to be comprehensive. The rescue efforts were comprehensive, and the recovery will be comprehensive.

Learning From Relief Efforts

Q. Mr. President, does the Federal Government need the authority to come in earlier or even in advance of a storm that threatening?

The President. I think that's one of the interesting issues that Congress needs to take a look at. And it's really important that as we take a step back and learn lessons, that we are in a position to adequately answer

the question, are we prepared for major catastrophes, that the system is such that we're able to work closely together and that—

Q. Do you recommend that Congress consider allowing the Federal Government to act more quickly?

The President. I think it's very important for Congress to take a good, close look at what went on, what didn't go on, and come up with a series of recommendations. And my attitude is, is that we need to learn everything we possibly can; we need to make sure that this country is knitted up as well as it can be, in order to deal with significant problems and disasters. Meantime, we've got to keep moving forward.

And I know there's been a lot of second-guessing. I can assure you, I'm not interested in that. What I'm interested in is solving problems. And there will be time to take a step back and to take a sober look at what went right and what didn't go right. There's a lot of information floating around that will be analyzed in an objective way, and that's important. And it's important for the people of this country to understand that all of us want to learn lessons. If there were to be a biological attack of some kind, we've got to make sure we understand the lessons learned, to be able to deal with catastrophe.

Iraq/Hurricane Katrina

Q. Will what is needed to get this area back on its feet have any impact on the timing of troop withdrawals in Iraq?

The President. In Iraq?

Q. Yes.

The President. We've got plenty of troops to do both. Let me just talk about that again. I've answered this question before, and you can speak to General Honore if you care to. He's the military man on the ground. It is preposterous to claim that the engagement in Iraq meant there wasn't enough troops here, just pure and simple.

Do you care to comment on that?

Lieutenant General Honore. Well, we have about 90,000 members of the Reserve and National Guard deployed, of a total force of approximately 400,000. So 90,000 are deployed. We've got the capability. We're here. We're demonstrating in deed every day. We're performing the mission with the great

support of the National Guard from multiple States. The response is here. The troops are getting the job done under the conditions that you see here today, and they're making America proud that we have that capability.

We have capability. We're applying it—air, land, and sea—our Federal forces in support of the Governors of Louisiana and Mississippi, under the direction of the adjutant general. The system is working. We've got the capability, and we're looking forward to get the job done and get the job completed, until the Governors tell us otherwise.

The President. The troop levels in Iraq will be decided by commanders on the ground. One, we're going to—our mission is to defeat the terrorists, is to win. Secondly, the strategy is, as Iraqis stand up, we will stand down. And so, to answer your question about the decisions made on the ground in Iraq, they will be made based upon the ability of the Iraqis to take the fight. And more and more Iraqi units are getting more and more qualified.

There's still a lot of work to be done there. Obviously, we're going to make sure we have a troop presence to help this political process go forward. There's an election—the ratification of the constitution—election will be coming up, and of course, there will be elections this—later on this year. And we will have the troop levels necessary to make sure those elections go forward.

After all, the enemy wants to stop democracy. See, that's what they want to do. They want to kill enough people so that—in the hopes that democracy won't go forward. They tried that prior to—more than 8 million Iraqis voting. They were unable to stop Iraqis from voting, because people want to be free. Deep in everybody's soul, regardless of your religion or where you live, is a desire to be free. And they can't stop it. And what we're going to do is help, and they can't stop democracy from moving. And so what we're going to do is help make sure those elections are accessible to the Iraqi people.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Q. Mr. President, there is a belief that we've been hearing for 2 weeks now on the ground that FEMA let the people here on the ground down. And perhaps, in turn, if

you look at the evidence of what it's done to your popularity, FEMA let you down. Do you think that your management style of sort of relying on the advice that you got in this particular scenario let you down? And do you think that plays at all——

The President. Look, there will be plenty of time to play the blame game. That's what you're trying to do.

Q. No, I'm trying to——

The President. You're trying to say somebody is at fault. Look—and I want to know. I want to know exactly what went on and how it went on. And we'll continually assess inside my administration. I sent Mike Chertoff down here to make an assessment of how best to do the job. He made a decision. I accepted his decision, but we're moving on. We're going to solve these problems. And there will be ample time for people to look back and see the facts.

Now, as far as my own personal popularity goes, I don't make decisions based upon polls. I hope the American people appreciate that. You can't make difficult decisions if you have to take a poll. That's been my style ever since I've been the President. And of course, I rely upon good people. Of course, you got to as the President of the United States. You set the space; you set the strategy; you hold people to account. But yes, I'm relying upon good people. That's why Admiral Allen is here. He's good man. He can do the job. That's why General Honore is here. And so when I come into a briefing, I don't tell them what to do. They tell me the facts on the ground, and my question to them is, "Do you have what you need?"

New Orleans Levees

Q. Did they misinform you when you said that no one anticipated the breach of the levees?

The President. No, what I was referring to is this: When that storm came by, a lot of people said we dodged a bullet. When that storm came through at first, people said, "Whew." There was a sense of relaxation, and that's what I was referring to. And I, myself, thought we had dodged a bullet. You know why? Because I was listening to people, probably over the airways, say, "The bullet has

been dodged." And that was what I was referring to.

Of course, there were plans in case the levee had been breached. There was a sense of relaxation in the moment, a critical moment. And thank you for giving me a chance to clarify that.

Anticipation of Katrina/Emergency Declarations

Q. Mr. President, where were you when you realized the severity of the storm?

The President. I was—I knew that a big storm was coming on Monday, so I spoke to the country on Monday [Sunday]* morning about it. I said, "There's a big storm coming." I had presigned emergency declarations in anticipation of a big storm coming——

Q. Mr. President——

The President. ——which is, by the way, extraordinary. Most emergencies the President signs after the storm has hit. It's a rare occasion for the President to anticipate the severity of a storm and sign the documentation prior to the storm hitting. So, in other words, we anticipated a serious storm coming. But as the man's question said, basically implied, wasn't there a moment where everybody said, "Well, gosh, we dodged the bullet," and yet the bullet hadn't been dodged.

Q. Mr. President——

The President. Last question.

Retrospective Analysis/Reconstruction

Q. This is 2 weeks in. You must have developed a clear image at this point of one critical thing that failed, one thing that went wrong in the first 5 days.

The President. Oh, I think there will be plenty of time to analyze, particularly the structure of the relationship between government levels. But again, there's—what I think Congress needs to do—I know Congress needs to do—and we're doing this internally as well—is to take a sober look at the decisionmaking that went on.

And what I want the people of this State and the State of Mississippi to understand is that we're moving forward with relief plans. And we're going to move forward with reconstruction plans, and we're going to do

* White House correction.

so in a coordinated way. And it's very important for the folks of New Orleans to understand that, at least as far as I'm concerned, this great city has got ample talent and ample genius to set the strategy and set the vision. And our role at the Federal Government is—obviously, within the law—is to help them realize that vision. And that's what I wanted to assure the mayor.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:29 a.m. at the intersection of North Claiborne and Cleveland Streets. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco of Louisiana; Mayor C. Ray Nagin of New Orleans, LA; Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honore, USA, commanding general, First United States Army; and Vice Adm. Thad W. Allen, USCG, U.S. Coast Guard Chief of Staff. Lt. Gen. Honore referred to Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, Adjutant General of Louisiana. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks on the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and an Exchange With Reporters in Gulfport, Mississippi

September 12, 2005

The President. First of all, I want to thank the school principal for her hospitality. It's interesting, you know, she said she lost her school and lost her house, but I told her, she hadn't lost her smile or her will to succeed.

Behind us we've got U.S. troops and Mexican troops working together to help get this school up and running. The superintendent of schools here in the region tells me that they're trying to have everybody back in school by the end of October. And that's part of what you're beginning to see here in Mississippi. This country is beginning to rebuild and lives are starting over.

I thank the Governor and the Congressman for their hospitality here. And Mayor, thank you, sir. You've been in office for how long? Four months?

Mayor Brett Warr. Two months.

The President. Two months.

Governor Haley Barbour. It seems like 4. [Laughter]

The President. But there's a remarkable spirit all across this—all across this affected zone. You're hearing the Mississippi spirit here, where there's a can-do attitude. People are coming together, slowly but surely putting their life back together. The Governor was telling me about the electricity, and the mayor has got a positive attitude.

I remember when I was down here last time, they were talking about gasoline. I saw a gasoline station up and running. And so progress is being made, and yet there's a lot of work to do, a lot of issues to be resolved, a lot of lives to be lifted up, a lot of hope to be restored.

I look forward to working with the congressional delegation, seeing people in Mississippi and the two Senators, of course, and the Governor, to address problems. I mean, we are problemsolvers, and we look forward to working with the folks here.

I said something in Louisiana I want to repeat here in Mississippi, and that is, as these communities are rebuilt, they're going to be rebuilt by people from Mississippi. And as the coast is replanned and the vision of the coast emerges, it's going to be planned by the people of Mississippi. The role of the people in Washington is to support the Governors and support the Congressmen, support the mayors, as a vision for what this part of the world will look like. And it's important for people to understand that, and that's a pledge we will keep.

Now, the school is going to open before the end of October.

Phyllis A. Bourn. We're hoping for the end of October.

The President. End of October—isn't that fantastic?

Ms. Bourn. Well, I'm sorry—the beginning of October.

The President. The beginning of October.

Ms. Bourn. The beginning of October for this school, for this school.

The President. Well, that's great. Well, thank you all very much. Thanks for having me.

Are we doing another round of questions today, or is one enough, do you think?

Resignation of FEMA Director Michael D. Brown

Q. Can you tell us, have you accepted the resignation of Michael Brown, or have you heard about it?

The President. I haven't. No, I have not talked to Michael Brown or Mike Chertoff. That's who I'd talk to. As you know, I've been working. And when I get on Air Force One, I will call back to Washington. But I've been on the move.

Q. Our understanding is, he has resigned; he's made a statement. Would that be appropriate—

The President. I haven't talked to Mike Chertoff yet, and that's what I intend to do when I get on the plane. You know, I—you probably—maybe you know something I don't know, but as you know, we've been working, and I haven't had a chance to get on the phone.

I just came from an extraordinary event. When I say I've been working, what I've been doing is thanking people. We just came from a church that's feeding people in need, that need help, and there were people from all over the country there. It was unbelievable. And so I was spending time thanking them and lifting their spirits.

So I can't comment on something that you may know more about than I do. So don't ask me again about a subject that—

Q. Can you say—we're you disappointed in the job that he did?

The President. We went through this this morning, as you know, and I've said this—so I haven't changed my mind since you asked that question—or somebody asked the question about it—

Q. This is a little bit different. We're asking specifically about him.

The President. It's the same spirit, and that is, is that there will be plenty of time to figure out what went right and what went wrong. And the reason why it's important for us to figure that out at a national level is that, if a major event were to come—another major event—we want to make sure that there's an appropriate relationship between the State and the local government. And so it's appropriate that we step back and take a look.

Here in Mississippi and in Louisiana, people want to move forward. They understand there's time to try to blame somebody. But they want to get their lives back together. And that's the spirit I see, and that's what—

Reconstruction After Hurricane Katrina

Q. On rebuilding, when you say it's up to—the vision of it is up to those on the ground, the local decisions, does that mean the Federal Government doesn't want to help rebuild things exactly, as vulnerable as they were?

The President. Well, you see, I think that nobody wants to build a fragile society. Everybody wants to, when you rebuild, rebuild better. And we want to work with the local folks to achieve that.

The Congressman brought up an interesting issue. He said that he's waiting to find out what height—in order for Federal money to come, the houses have to be built to a certain height. He's not trying to figure out the height; he just wants an answer.

Representative Gene Taylor. And the same thing with the highways, for example. We can't—a highway commission can't put out contracts for bridges until the Coast Guard tells us how the vertical clearance has got to be.

The President. So, obviously, there's a collaborative effort. And what the Congressman's basic point was and the Governor's point is, how about getting us the answers—for one reason: They want to get going, which is exciting news. And it's—so that's the kind of relationship I'm talking about.

Insurance Issues

Q. Mr. President, these people asking about insurance—

The President. Yes—

Q. —the flood versus wind. What can you—

The President. I can't give an answer to that right now. But I am taking back the message, again, of the Congressman and the Governor, and particularly a lady I met at the church. She said she'd lived here for a long period of time, and she said, "I want to ask you something, President." She said, "How would you like it if your insurance

company said, ‘Ma’am, this is a flood event, and therefore, I’m not going to cover it, cover your house?’ ” I said, “I wouldn’t like it a bit.” She said, “Well, that’s just what happened to me today.” She had come back from where she had evacuated to, to hear that message. And she asked my opinion, and I said, “I’ll find out the process that determines whether or not it’s a wind or water event.”

President’s Focus on Domestic and Foreign Policy

Q. One more question. With all your focus on foreign policy the next couple of days, what—have you put in place to keep your—

The President. I can do more than one thing at one time. That’s what—I hope you—by the time I’m finished President, I hope you’ll realize that the Government can do more than one thing at one time, and individuals in the Government can. And so I’ll be in constant touch with—I have a hurricane recovery briefing every morning, for example. I’ll be in touch with Mike Chertoff. Andy Card, on my staff, will be in touch with the appropriate people. And so if I’m focusing on the hurricane, I’ve got the capacity to focus on foreign policy, and vice versa. But I thank you for asking that question.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:06 p.m. at Twenty-Eighth Street Elementary School. In his remarks, he referred to Glen East, superintendent, Gulfport School District. Phyllis A. Bourn, principal, Twenty-Eighth Street Elementary School; Gov. Haley Barbour of Mississippi; Representative Gene Taylor of Mississippi; and Mayor Brett Warr of Gulfport, MS, participated in the exchange. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Electoral Victory of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi in Japan’s General Elections

September 12, 2005

I extend my congratulations to Prime Minister Koizumi for his decisive victory in yesterday’s elections and to the Japanese people for continuing Japan’s robust democratic tra-

dition. Prime Minister Koizumi is a bold leader and a good friend, and I look forward to continuing the close partnership between our two countries.

Memorandum on Continuation of the Exercise of Certain Authorities Under the Trading With the Enemy Act

September 12, 2005

Presidential Determination No. 2005–35

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Treasury

Subject: Continuation of the Exercise of Certain Authorities under the Trading with the Enemy Act

Under section 101(b) of Public Law 95–223 (91 Stat. 1625; 50 U.S.C. App. 5(b) note), and a previous determination on September 10, 2004 (69 *Fed. Reg.* 55497), the exercise of certain authorities under the Trading with the Enemy Act is scheduled to terminate on September 14, 2005.

I hereby determine that the continuation for 1 year of the exercise of those authorities with respect to the applicable countries is in the national interest of the United States.

Therefore, pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 101(b) of Public Law 95–223, I continue for 1 year, until September 14, 2006, the exercise of those authorities with respect to countries affected by:

- (1) the Foreign Assets Control Regulations, 31 C.F.R. part 500;
- (2) the Transaction Control Regulations, 31 C.F.R. part 505; and
- (3) the Cuban Assets Control Regulations, 31 C.F.R. part 515.

The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 14, 2005]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 13, and

it was published in the *Federal Register* on September 15.

The President's News Conference With President Jalal Talabani of the Iraqi Transitional Government

September 13, 2005

President Bush. Thank you all. It's an honor to welcome the first democratically elected President of Iraq to the White House.

President Talabani. Thank you.

President Bush. I'm proud to stand with a brave leader of the Iraqi people, a friend of the United States, and a testament to the power of human freedom.

Mr. President, thank you for your leadership. Thank you for your courage.

President Talabani has dedicated his life to the cause of liberty in Iraq. As a lawyer, a journalist, and a political leader in northern Iraq, he stood up to a brutal dictator, because he believes that every Iraqi deserves to be free. The dictator destroyed Kurdish villages, ordered poison gas attacks on a Kurdish city, and violently repressed other religious and ethnic groups. For President Talabani and his fellow citizens, the day Saddam was removed from power was a day of deliverance. And America will always be proud that we led the armies of liberation.

In the past 2 years, the Iraqi people have made their vision of their future clear. This past January, more than 8 million Iraqis defied the car bombers and the assassins and voted in free elections. It is an inspiring act of unity when 80 percent of the elected National Assembly chose the President, a member of Iraq's Kurdish minority, to lead the free nation.

In our meeting today, I congratulated the President on his election, and I thanked him for his leadership on Iraq's draft constitution. The draft constitution is an historic milestone. It protects fundamental freedoms, including religion, assembly, conscience, and expression. It calls for a federal system of government, which is essential to preserving the unity of a diverse nation like Iraq. It declares that all Iraqis are equal before the law,

without regard to gender, ethnicity, and religion.

The Iraqi people can be proud of the draft constitution, and when an election to ratify that constitution is held next month, they will have a chance to vote their conscience at the polls.

As the Iraqi people continue on the path to democracy, the enemies of freedom remain brutal and determined. The killers in Iraq are the followers of the same ideology as those who attacked America 4 years ago. Their vision is for an Iraq that looks like Afghanistan under the Taliban, a society where freedom is crushed, girls are denied schooling, and terrorists have a safe haven to plot attacks on America and other free people.

To impose their hateful vision, our enemies know they must drive America out of Iraq before the Iraqi people can secure their own freedom. They believe we will retreat in the face of violence, so they're committing acts of staggering brutality, murdering Iraqi children receiving candy or hospital workers treating the wounded. We have no doubt that our enemies will continue to kill. Yet we also know they cannot achieve their aims unless we lose our resolve.

Today, Mr. President, I pledge that we will not waver, and I appreciate your same pledge. Iraq will take its place among the world's democracies. The enemies of freedom will be defeated.

President Talabani and I discussed our strategy for the months ahead. America will stand with the Iraqi people as they move forward with the democratic process. We're seeing hopeful developments in places like Fallujah and Ramadi and Mosul, where Iraqis are registering to vote, many for the first time—well, obviously, for the first time.

At the same time, American troops will stay on the offensive, alongside Iraqi security forces, to hunt down our common enemies. At this hour, American and Iraqi forces are conducting joint operations to rout out terrorists and insurgents in Tall 'Afar. Our objective is to defeat the enemies of a free Iraq, and we're working to prepare more Iraqi forces to join the fight. As Iraqis stand up, Americans will stand down. And when the mission is complete, our troops will come home with the honor they have earned.

Tomorrow President Talabani and I will take our seats at the United Nations in New York. The session will mark the first time in a half-century that Iraq is represented by a freely elected government.

Securing freedom in Iraq has required great sacrifice, Mr. President. You know that better than anybody. And there's going to be difficult days ahead. Yet I have no doubt about the impact of a democratic Iraq on the rest of the world. If Iraq becomes a federal, unified democracy, people throughout the broader Middle East will demand their own liberty. The Middle East will become more peaceful, and America and the world become more secure.

We're proud to call you friend, Mr. President, and proud to have you as an ally in the war on terror. On behalf of the American people, I want to thank you for Iraq's generous pledge of aid to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Welcome to the United States.

President Talabani. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President, for your kind remarks. It is an honor for me to stand here today as a representative of free Iraq. It is an honor to present the world's youngest democracy.

In the name of Iraqi people, I say to you, Mr. President, and to the glorious American people, thank you. Thank you. Thank you, because you liberated us from the worst kind of dictatorship. Our people suffered too much from this worst kind of dictatorship. The signal is mass graves with hundred thousand of Iraqi innocent children and women, young and old men. Thank you and thanks to the United States, there are now 15 million Muslims in Afghanistan and Iraq liberated by your courageous leadership and decision to liberate us, Mr. President.

We agree with Mr. President Bush that democracy is the solution to the problems of the Middle East. Mr. President, you are a visionary, great statesman. We salute you. We are grateful to you. We will never forget what you have done for our people.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

President Talabani. We have had a good discussion with Mr. President. We are partners. We are proud to say openly and to repeat it, that we are partners of the United States of America in fighting against tyranny, terrorism, and for democracy. It is something

we are not shy to say and will repeat it everywhere, here and in Iraq and the United Nations and everywhere.

Iraq is America's ally in the war against terrorism. Our soldiers are now fighting side by side with your brave soldiers, now and every day. We have captured many senior elements of Al Qaida. We killed many of them, and we have also many of them in our prisons.

With your support, we could create a society enjoying democracy for the first time, obviously. Now Iraq is a free country. We have all kinds of democracy, all kinds of freedom of expression of parties, groups, civil society organizations—that we can say that our democracy is unique in the Middle East.

Our strategy is sound. We build democracy and defend democracy. We talk about how we could improve our tactics. There is progress in security in our country. The number of the bomb cars reduced. The places which were under the full control of the terrorists are now liberated. And they're now registering their names for the new election.

In the areas which was known that there was the area of Al Qaida now it became the area of Iraq. And two signals, important signals appeared there in that area—the people started to hate and to fight terrorism. Now we have Iraqi Arab tribes, Sunni tribes fighting terrorism and Al Qaida. We have also people who are in—[inaudible]—who are co-operating with Iraqi forces, with American forces against terrorism. It is a good signal that our people start to understand that terrorism is the enemy of Iraqi people before becoming the enemy of Americans. They are killing our civilians, our innocent children, students. They are destroying our mosques—church, everywhere, regardless of what may happen to the people.

And we are now progressing gradually. Last year, for example, Fallujah was their capital. Now it is as Iraqi city. A year ago, Najaf was a battlefield. Najaf is a holy city of Shiites, the Vatican of the Shiites. Now Najaf is being rebuilt, is free, and ruled by the elected committee, elected government.

There are still important security challenges we are not neglecting. But we are fighting Al Qaida. Now our fight in Tall 'Afar

proved that the enemy is going to be weakened and low morale. The fighting in Tall 'Afar was easy to defeat the terrorists and to liberate the town.

The so-called jihadists want to impose oppression and dictatorship and worst kind of society on our people. For that, they are not only—so they are not only the enemy of Iraq, but they are the enemy of humanity, the enemy of real Islam, and the enemy of all Middle East peoples. Together with our American friends and partners, we will defeat them.

Today, American and international presence in Iraq is vital. The American and international presence in Iraq is vital for democracy in Iraq and in the Middle East and also for prevent foreign interference in the internal affairs of Iraq.

We will set no timetable for withdrawal, Mr. President. A timetable will help the terrorists, will encourage them that they could defeat superpower of the world and the Iraqi people. We hope that by the end of 2006, our security forces are up to the level of taking responsibility from many American troops with complete agreement with Americans. We don't want to do anything without the agreement with the Americans because we don't want to give any signal to the terrorists that our will to defeat them is weakened, or they can defeat us.

We are proud that one day will come—as soon as possible, of course, we hope—that American troops can proudly return home, and we tell them, “Thank you, dear friends,” and you are faithful to friendship. Of course, we are sorry for the sacrifices of American people in Iraq, but I think a great people like America has a mission in the history. They have sacrificed hundreds of thousands of his sons in the war, First World War, Second World War, and in liberating people in—[inaudible]—in Afghanistan, Kurdistan. And the great leader, Mr. George W. Bush, is continuing the same mission of the American people. We are grateful. We are grateful for American generosity, and we honor—we honor—sacrifices of America in Iraq—and everywhere, not only in Iraq.

We also need our neighbors, at least some of them, to stop attacking Iraqi democracy. We want them to join us in fighting against

terrorism. We want our Arab brothers stopping media, at least the official media, to support terrorism. We want them to stand with us against terrorism, because terrorism is the enemy of all Arab and Muslim countries in the world.

But we will proceed, and we will remember those who helped us in our struggle to establish a democratic Iraq. And you are first, those people who supported us for this noble mission.

There is, in Iraq, political progress. We are taking the gun out of Iraqi politics for the first time. Iraqis are—speaking to each other in peaceful dialog, not with arms. The majority of Iraqis are committed to political process. Iraq is a diverse country. They are mostly settling their differences peacefully.

We have agreed a draft constitution. Of course, it is not perfect document, but I think it is one of the best constitutions in the Middle East. Of course, we didn't solve all problems; we have some problems. We are still suffering from many problems. But we are achieving progress on all fields, economic, trade, education, political life. And we hope that we will remain having the support of the United States, and yourself, Mr. President, and other friends in Arab world and in Europe.

It is clear that we are a young democracy, but our draft constitution has a bill of rights, ensures the equality of all Iraqis before the law regardless of their gender, creed, religion, or ethnicity. It enshrines separation of powers and involves many checks and balances on the exercise of power. It is the best constitution in the entire region, as we claim. We hope it will be correct.

We are reaching out to some other Iraqi citizens who were not able to participate in the election. I mean our Arab Sunni brothers. We tried and we involved with them in the process. When the results of the election was announced, the two main lists of alliance, the Kurdistan Alliance and the United Front of Iraq Shiite Alliance, we got 238 votes, and the Assembly was 275. But nevertheless, we tried to bring our Sunni Arabs to the Government to participate. We elected a Vice President, an Arab Sunni; two Deputy Prime Ministers; the Speaker of the House is a Sunni; and six ministers, among them, two main

posts, the Minister of Defense and Minister of Industry.

It means that we are anxious to have all Iraqis united and to solve all our problems through dialog. We are calling all Iraqis to come to participate in the democratic process and to say what they want, and they are free to decide the Government—decide the President of Iraq, the Prime Minister, the ministers, and they are able to say what they want through democratic process. They can say their slogans and demands.

This, of course, constitution is not perfect, but it can be amended in the future, if the Iraqi people—[inaudible]—want this. But now, compared with others, we are proud to have such a kind of constitution. Some of our brothers, Sunni Arabs, are under the threat of terrorism. We will try our best to liberate them from terrorism and from the violence.

To those in America, in other countries, still ask of war of liberation in Iraq, if it was right—the right decision, I say, “Please, please come to Iraq to visit the mass graves, to see what happened to the Iraqi people and to see what now going on in Iraq.” To those who talk of stability, I say, “Saddam imposed the stability of the mass graves.” To the terrorists, I say, “You will never win. Freedom will win in Iraq.”

Thank you, Mr. President.

President Bush. Good Job. Thank you.

A couple of questions. Two a side. Nedra [Nedra Pickler, Associated Press].

U.S. Response to Disasters and Terrorist Attacks

Q. Mr. President, given what happened with Katrina, shouldn't Americans be concerned if their Government isn't prepared to respond to another disaster or even a terrorist attack?

President Bush. Katrina exposed serious problems in our response capability at all levels of government. And to the extent that the Federal Government didn't fully do its job right, I take responsibility. I want to know what went right and what went wrong. I want to know how to better cooperate with State and local government, to be able to answer that very question that you asked: Are we capable of dealing with a severe attack or an-

other severe storm? And that's a very important question. And it's in our national interest that we find out exactly what went on and—so that we can better respond.

One thing for certain, having been down there three times and have seen how hard people are working, I'm not going to defend the process going in, but I am going to defend the people who are on the frontline of saving lives. Those Coast Guard kids pulling people out of the—out of the floods are—did heroic work. The first-responders on the ground, whether they be State folks or local folks, did everything they could. There's a lot of people that are—have done a lot of hard work to save lives.

And so I want to know what went right and what went wrong, to address those. But I also want people in America to understand how hard people are working to save lives down there in—not only New Orleans but surrounding parishes and along the gulf coast.

Mr. President, you want to call on somebody?

Syria

[At this point, a question was asked and answered in Arabic, and no translation was provided. The reporter then continued in English.]

Q. If I may, Mr. President, it's been a scathing attack from top officials of your administration on Syria yesterday for allowing foreign fighters to cross the border. We heard yesterday from Ambassador Khalilzad. Is this an escalation on the pressure that you're putting on Syria? And what more can you do when you say that all options are open?

President Bush. Thank you.

President Talabani. May I answer?

President Bush. Please, yes. You might want to try it English. [Laughter]

President Talabani. Well, I say it in Arabic because the question was in Arabic.

[President Talabani began in Arabic, and no translation was provided.]

President Bush. Oops. [Laughter]

[President Talabani finished his answer in Arabic, and no translation was provided.]

President Bush. I'm not sure if I agree or not, but—[*laughter*—Ambassador did speak strongly about Syria because he understands that the Syrian Government can do a lot more to prevent the flow of foreign fighters into Iraq. These people are coming from Syria into Iraq and killing a lot of innocent people. They're killing—they're trying to kill our folks as well. And so, of course, he's speaking strongly about that.

And the Syrian leader must understand, we take his lack of action seriously. And the Government is going to become more and more isolated as a result of two things, one, not being cooperative with the Iraqi Government in terms of securing Iraq, and two, not being fully transparent about what they did in Lebanon.

And so we're going to work with our friends. And this is a subject of conversation, of course, I'll have with allies in places like New York and other times I communicate with our allies, that Syria must be a focus of getting them to change their behavior, particularly as it regards to democracy and trying to prevent democracies from emerging.

Toby [Tabassum Zakaria, Reuters].

Iran's Nuclear Program

Q. Mr. President, do you believe at this point that Iran will be referred to the U.N. Security Council to face possible sanctions over its nuclear program? And how will you convince reluctant members like China that this is the way forward?

President Bush. There is still an IAEA process to go forward. And we will work with our Ambassador at the IAEA, Ambassador Schulte, to continue to press forward with a full disclosure about Iranian intentions so that then the Security Council can make a—determine the right policy to go forward.

I will bring the subject up with leaders whom I'll be meeting with today and tomorrow and later on this week. I will be speaking candidly about Iran with the—Hu Jintao, as well as with President Putin, for example. Just had a conversation with Tony Blair, and the subject came up.

It is very important for the world to understand that Iran with a nuclear weapon will be incredibly destabilizing. And therefore, we must work together to prevent them from

having the wherewithal to develop a nuclear weapon. It should be a warning to all of us that they have—in the past, didn't fully disclose their programs, their programs aimed at helping them develop a weapon. They have insisted that they have a civilian nuclear program, and I thought a rational approach to that would be to allow them to receive enriched uranium from a third party under the guise of international inspections—that will enable them to have civilian nuclear power without learning how to make a bomb.

Some of us are wondering why they need civilian nuclear power anyway. They're awash with hydrocarbons. Nevertheless, it's a right of a government to want to have a civilian nuclear program. And—but there ought to be guidelines in which they be allowed to have that civilian nuclear program. And one such guideline would be in such a way that they don't gain the expertise necessary to be able to enrich.

This is a subject of grave concern, and it's something that we're spending a lot of time on in this administration. I want to applaud the Germans and the French and the British for sticking together in developing a common message to the Iranians. And now we'll see how the Iranians respond, here on their visit to the United States.

Final question, Mr. President.

Q. Mr. President, I hope you will excuse me, since you've never had Kurdish—spoken Kurdish, I put my question in Kurdish.

[*The question was asked in Kurdish, and no translation was provided.*]

President Talabani. With your permission, Mr. President, he's from America and his voice, American voice in Kurdish—I must answer in Kurdish.

President Bush. Yes. Answer his question—perfect.

[*President Talabani answered in Kurdish, and no translation was provided.*]

President Bush. On that cheery note, the press conference is over. [*Laughter*]

Thank you, Mr. President. Good job.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 11:35 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Ambassador to Iraq

Zalmay Khalilzad; President Bashar al-Asad of Syria; Ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency Gregory Schulte; President Hu Jintao of China; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; and Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom. President Talabani referred to Deputy President Ghazi al-Ujayl al-Yawr, Deputy Prime Minister Abid Mutlaq Hamud al-Jabburi, Minister of Defense Sadun al-Dulaymi, and Minister of Industry and Minerals Usama al-Najafi of the Iraqi Transitional Government; and Speaker of the Transitional National Assembly Hajim al-Hassani.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Hu Jintao of China in New York City

September 13, 2005

President Bush. I'm pleased to welcome President Hu back to the United States. I've been looking forward to this meeting. We've got a lot to discuss. We will, of course, discuss areas of interest, like economic matters. We will discuss North Korea and Iran. I look forward to a discussion about making sure we work together to deal with a potential pandemic in the avian flu.

We'll talk about—I will bring up human rights. Most importantly, I view this visit as an opportunity to continue a dialog in dealing with a very important relationship with the United States and the world.

So I welcome you, Mr. President.

President Hu. I am very pleased to have this opportunity to meet with President Bush in New York. To begin with, I'd like to extend, on behalf of the Chinese Government and the Chinese people, our deepest sympathy to the American Government and people for the human loss and property loss inflicted by Hurricane Katrina in the Southern American States. May the American people overcome the disaster and rebuild their beautiful homes at an early date.

As things stand now, the China-U.S. relationship, on the whole, has been developing quite well. The two sides have stayed in close touch and communication, and the two sides have also enjoyed effective coordination and cooperation in a wide range of important areas and on a number of important issues, including counterterrorism, nonproliferation, affairs related to the United Nations, Asia-

Pacific affairs, as well as boosting global and regional economic growth.

Facts have proven that a sound and steadily growing China-U.S. relationship not only serves the interests of our two peoples but also contributes to peace, stability, and development in the world. Our economic relationship and trade is not only an important component of our bilateral relationship as a whole but also represents a major driving force behind the furtherance of this relationship.

We need to see the fact that the mutually beneficially and win-win cooperation is the mainstream of our relationship. At the same time, there's no denial that as our bilateral trade develops so fast and to such a large scale, it is inevitable that we may have some frictions.

What I would like to express here is that China does not pursue a huge trade surplus in its trade with the United States. And we are willing to work with the United States to take effective measures to increase China's import from the United States and work hard to gradually address the trade imbalances in the two-way trade in the further expansion of our trading ties and economic cooperation.

At the same time, China will continue to step up its efforts to protect intellectual properties and will certainly enhance our efforts in fighting all kinds of violations in this regard. And we're going to protect the legitimate rights and interests of all international intellectual property rights owners, including those in the United States.

The proper handling of the Taiwan question holds the key to the sound and steady growth of the China-U.S. relationship. President Bush has, on various occasions, stated his commitment to the "one China" policy, the three Sino-U.S. Joint Communiques, and opposition to so-called Taiwan independence, which I highly appreciate. I hope that the United States will join the Chinese side in safeguarding peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits and opposing so-called Taiwan independence.

We have always stood for a nuclear-weapon free Korean Peninsula, stood for a peaceful solution to the nuclear issue through dialog, and stood for peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia as

a whole. We stand ready to step up our communication and cooperation with the United States so that we can facilitate fresh progress in the second session of the fourth round of the six-party talks.

In short, I stand ready to work together with President Bush to comprehensively move forward the constructive and cooperative relationship between our two countries.

I'm sorry for taking too much of your time. [Laughter]

President Bush. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:32 p.m. in Room 35H at the Waldorf-Astoria. President Hu spoke in Chinese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Israel-United States Protocol Amending the Convention Relating to Extradition

September 13, 2005

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Protocol between the Government of the United States and the Government of the State of Israel, signed at Jerusalem on July 6, 2005.

In addition, I transmit for the information of the Senate the report of the Department of State with respect to the Protocol. As the report explains, the Protocol will not require implementing legislation.

The Protocol amends the Convention Relating to Extradition (the "1962 Convention"), signed at Washington on December 10, 1962. The Protocol updates the 1962 Convention in a manner consistent with our modern extradition treaties. The Protocol will, upon entry into force, enhance cooperation between the law enforcement communities of both nations and make a significant contribution to international law enforcement efforts.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Protocol and give its advice and consent to ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 13, 2005.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 14.

Remarks to the Plenary Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York City

September 14, 2005

Mr. Secretary-General, Mr. President, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen: Thank you for the privilege of being here for the 60th anniversary of the United Nations. Thank you for your dedication to the vital work and great ideals of this institution.

We meet at a time of great challenge for America and the world. At this moment, men and women along my country's gulf coast are recovering from one of the worst natural disasters in American history. Many have lost homes and loved ones and all their earthly possessions. In Alabama and Mississippi and Louisiana, whole neighborhoods have been lifted from their foundations and sent crashing into the streets. A great American city is working to turn the flood waters and reclaim its future.

We have witnessed the awesome power of nature and the greater power of human compassion. Americans have responded to their neighbors in need, and so have many of the nations represented in this chamber. All together, more than 115 countries and nearly a dozen international organizations have stepped forward with offers of assistance. To every nation, every province, and every community across the world that is standing with the American people in this hour of need, I offer the thanks of my nation.

Your response, like the response to last year's tsunami, has shown once again that the world is more compassionate and hopeful when we act together. This truth was the inspiration for the United Nations. The U.N.'s

founding members laid out great and honorable goals in the charter they drafted six decades ago. That document commits this organization to work to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war,” “reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights,” and “promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.” We remain committed to those noble ideals. As we respond to great humanitarian needs, we must actively respond to the other great challenges of our time. We must continue to work to ease suffering and to spread freedom and to lay the foundations of lasting peace for our children and grandchildren.

In this young century, the far corners of the world are linked more closely than ever before, and no nation can remain isolated and indifferent to the struggles of others. When a country or a region is filled with despair and resentment and vulnerable to violent and aggressive ideologies, the threat passes easily across oceans and borders and could threaten the security of any peaceful country.

Terrorism fed by anger and despair has come to Tunisia, to Indonesia, to Kenya, to Tanzania, to Morocco, to Israel, to Saudi Arabia, to the United States, to Turkey, to Spain, to Russia, to Egypt, to Iraq, and the United Kingdom. And those who have not seen attacks on their own soil have still shared in the sorrow, from Australians killed in Bali to Italians killed in Egypt, to the citizens of dozens of nations who were killed on September the 11th, 2001, here in the city where we meet. The lesson is clear: There can be no safety in looking away or seeking the quiet life by ignoring the hardship and oppression of others. Either hope will spread, or violence will spread, and we must take the side of hope.

Sometimes our security will require confronting threats directly, and so a great coalition of nations has come together to fight the terrorists across the world. We’ve worked together to help break up terrorist networks that cross borders and rout out radical cells within our own borders. We’ve eliminated terrorist sanctuaries. We’re using our diplomatic and financial tools to cut off their financing and drain them of support. And as we fight, the terrorists must know the world

stands united against them. We must complete the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism that will put every nation on record: The targeting and deliberate killing by terrorists of civilians and non-combatants cannot be justified or legitimized by any cause or grievance.

And the world’s free nations are determined to stop the terrorists and their allies from acquiring the terrible weapons that would allow them to kill on a scale equal to their hatred. For that reason, more than 60 countries are supporting the Proliferation Security Initiative to intercept shipments of weapons of mass destruction on land, on sea, and at air. The terrorists must know that wherever they go, they cannot escape justice.

Later today, the Security Council has an opportunity to put the terrorists on notice when it votes on a resolution that condemns the incitement of terrorist acts, the resolution that calls upon all states to take appropriate steps to end such incitement. We also need to sign and implement the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism so that all those who seek radioactive materials or nuclear devices are prosecuted and extradited, wherever they are. We must send a clear message to the rulers of outlaw regimes that sponsor terror and pursue weapons of mass murder: You will not be allowed to threaten the peace and stability of the world.

Confronting our enemies is essential, and so civilized nations will continue to take the fight to the terrorists. Yet we know that this war will not be won by force of arms alone. We must defeat the terrorists on the battlefield, and we must also defeat them in the battle of ideas. We must change the conditions that allow terrorists to flourish and recruit, by spreading the hope of freedom to millions who’ve never known it. We must help raise up the failing states and stagnant societies that provide fertile ground for the terrorists. We must defend and extend a vision of human dignity and opportunity and prosperity, a vision far stronger than the dark appeal of resentment and murder.

To spread a vision of hope, the United States is determined to help nations that are struggling with poverty. We are committed to the Millennium Development goals. This

is an ambitious agenda that includes cutting poverty and hunger in half, ensuring that every boy and girl in the world has access to primary education, and halting the spread of AIDS—all by 2015.

We have a moral obligation to help others and a moral duty to make sure our actions are effective. At Monterrey in 2002, we agreed to a new vision for the way we fight poverty and curb corruption and provide aid in this new millennium. Developing countries agreed to take responsibility for their own economic progress through good governance and sound policies and the rule of law. Developed countries agreed to support those efforts, including increased aid to nations that undertake necessary reforms. My own country has sought to implement the Monterrey Consensus by establishing the new Millennium Challenge Account. This account is increasing U.S. aid for countries that govern justly, invest in their people, and promote economic freedom.

More needs to be done. I call on all the world's nations to implement the Monterrey Consensus. Implementing the Monterrey Consensus means continuing on the long, hard road to reform. Implementing the Monterrey Consensus means creating a genuine partnership between developed and developing countries to replace the donor-client relationship of the past. And implementing the Monterrey Consensus means welcoming all developing countries as full participants to the global economy, with all the requisite benefits and responsibilities.

Tying aid to reform is essential to eliminating poverty, but our work doesn't end there. For many countries, AIDS, malaria, and other diseases are both humanitarian tragedies and significant obstacles to development. We must give poor countries access to the emergency lifesaving drugs they need to fight these infectious diseases. Through our bilateral programs and the Global Fund, the United States will continue to lead the world in providing the resources to defeat the plague of HIV/AIDS.

Today, America is working with local authorities and organizations in the largest initiative in history to combat a specific disease. Across Africa, we're helping local health officials expand AIDS testing facilities, train and

support doctors and nurses and counselors, and upgrade clinics and hospitals. Working with our African partners, we have now delivered lifesaving treatment to more than 230,000 people in sub-Saharan Africa. We are ahead of schedule to meet an important objective, providing HIV/AIDS treatment for nearly 2 million adults and children in Africa. At the G-8 Summit at Gleneagles, Scotland, we set a clear goal, an AIDS-free generation in Africa. I challenge every member of the United Nations to take concrete steps to achieve that goal.

We're also working to fight malaria. This preventable disease kills more than a million people around the world every year and leaves poverty and grief in every land it touches. The United States has set a goal of cutting the malaria death rate in half in at least 15 highly endemic African countries. To achieve that goal, we've pledged to increase our funding for malaria treatment and prevention by more than \$1.2 billion over the next 5 years. We invite other nations to join us in this effort by committing specific aid to the dozens of other African nations in need of it. Together we can fight malaria and save hundreds of thousands of lives and bring new hope to countries that have been devastated by this terrible disease.

As we strengthen our commitment to fighting malaria and AIDS, we must also remain on the offensive against new threats to public health such as the avian influenza. If left unchallenged, this virus could become the first pandemic of the 21st century. We must not allow that to happen. Today I am announcing a new International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza. The Partnership requires countries that face an outbreak to immediately share information and provide samples to the World Health Organization. By requiring transparency, we can respond more rapidly to dangerous outbreaks and stop them on time. Many nations have already joined this partnership. We invite all nations to participate. It's essential we work together, and as we do so, we will fulfill a moral duty to protect our citizens and heal the sick and comfort the afflicted.

Even with increased aid to fight disease and reform economies, many nations are held back by another heavy challenge, the

burden of debt. So America and many nations have also acted to lift this burden that limits the growth of developing economies and holds millions of people in poverty. Today, poor countries with the heaviest debt burdens are receiving more than \$30 billion in debt relief. And to prevent the build-up of future debt, my country and other nations have agreed that international financial institutions should increasingly provide new aid in the form of grants, rather than loans. The G-8 agreed at Gleneagles to go further. To break the lend-and-forgive cycle permanently, we agreed to cancel 100 percent of the debt for the world's most heavily indebted nations. I call upon the World Bank and the IMF to finalize this historic agreement as soon as possible.

We will fight to lift the burden of poverty from places of suffering, not just for the moment but permanently. And the surest path to greater wealth is greater trade. In a letter he wrote to me in August, the Secretary-General commended the G-8's work but told me that aid and debt relief are not enough. The Secretary-General said that we also need to reduce trade barriers and subsidies that are holding developing countries back. I agree with the Secretary-General: The Doha round is "the most promising way" to achieve this goal.

A successful Doha round will reduce and eliminate tariffs and other barriers on farm and industrial goods. It will end unfair agricultural subsidies. It will open up global markets for services. Under Doha, every nation will gain, and the developing world stands to gain the most. Historically, developing nations that open themselves up to trade grow at several times the rate of other countries. The elimination of trade barriers could lift hundreds of millions of people out of poverty over the next 15 years. The stakes are high. The lives and futures of millions of the world's poorest citizens hang in the balance, and so we must bring the Doha trade talks to a successful conclusion.

Doha is an important step toward a larger goal. We must tear down the walls that separate the developed and developing worlds. We need to give the citizens of the poorest nations the same ability to access the world economy that the people of wealthy nations

have, so they can offer their goods and talents on the world market alongside everyone else. We need to ensure that they have the same opportunities to pursue their dreams, provide for their families, and live lives of dignity and self-reliance.

And the greatest obstacles to achieving these goals are the tariffs and subsidies and barriers that isolate people of developing nations from the great opportunities of the 21st century. Today, I reiterate the challenge I have made before: We must work together in the Doha negotiations to eliminate agricultural subsidies that distort trade and stunt development and to eliminate tariffs and other barriers to open markets for farmers around the world. Today, I broaden the challenge by making this pledge: The United States is ready to eliminate all tariffs, subsidies, and other barriers to free flow of goods and services as other nations do the same. This is key to overcoming poverty in the world's poorest nations. It's essential we promote prosperity and opportunity for all nations.

By expanding trade, we spread hope and opportunity to the corners of the world, and we strike a blow against the terrorists who feed on anger and resentment. Our agenda for freer trade is part of our agenda for a freer world, where people can live and worship and raise their children as they choose. In the long run, the best way to protect the religious freedom and the rights of women and minorities is through institutions of self-rule, which allow people to assert and defend their own rights. All who stand for human rights must also stand for human freedom.

This is a moment of great opportunity in the cause of freedom. Across the world, hearts and minds are opening to the message of human liberty as never before. In the last 2 years alone, tens of millions have voted in free elections in Afghanistan and Iraq, in Lebanon and the Palestinian territories, in Kyrgyzstan, in Ukraine, and Georgia. And as they claim their freedom, they are inspiring millions more across the broader Middle East. We must encourage their aspirations. We must nurture freedom's progress, and the United Nations has a vital role to play.

Through the new U.N. Democracy Fund, the democratic members of the U.N. will

work to help others who want to join the democratic world. It is fitting that the world's largest democracy, India, has taken a leadership role in this effort, pledging \$10 million to get the fund started. Every free nation has an interest in the success of this fund, and every free nation has a responsibility in advancing the cause of liberty.

The work of democracy is larger than holding a fair election. It requires building the institutions that sustain freedom. Democracy takes different forms in different cultures, yet all free societies have certain things in common. Democratic nations uphold the rule of law, impose limits on the power of the state, treat women and minorities as full citizens. Democratic nations protect private property, free speech, and religious expression. Democratic nations grow in strength because they reward and respect the creative gifts of their people. And democratic nations contribute to peace and stability because they seek national greatness in achievements of their citizens, not the conquest of their neighbors.

For these reasons, the whole world has a vital interest in the success of a free Iraq, and no civilized nation has an interest in seeing a new terrorist state emerge in that country. So the free world is working together to help the Iraqi people to establish a new nation that can govern itself, sustain itself, and defend itself. It's an exciting opportunity for all of us in this chamber. And the United Nations has played a vital role in the success of the January elections, where 8½ million Iraqis defied the terrorists and cast their ballots. And since then, the United Nations has supported Iraq's elected leaders as they drafted a new constitution.

The United Nations and its member states must continue to stand by the Iraqi people as they complete the journey to a fully constitutional government. And when Iraqis complete their journey, their success will inspire others to claim their freedom; the Middle East will grow in peace and hope and liberty; and all of us will live in a safer world.

The advance of freedom and security is the calling of our time. It is the mission of the United Nations. The United Nations was created to spread the hope of liberty and to fight poverty and disease and to help secure human rights and human dignity for all the

world's people. To help make these promises real, the United Nations must be strong and efficient, free of corruption, and accountable to the people it serves. The United Nations must stand for integrity and live by the high standards it sets for others. And meaningful institutional reforms must include measures to improve internal oversight, identify cost savings, and ensure that precious resources are used for their intended purpose.

The United Nations has taken the first steps toward reform. The process will continue in the General Assembly this fall, and the United States will join with others to lead the effort. And the process of reform begins with members taking our responsibilities seriously. When this great institution's member states choose notorious abusers of human rights to sit on the U.N. Human Rights Commission, they discredit a noble effort and undermine the credibility of the whole organization. If member countries want the United Nations to be respected—respected and effective, they should begin by making sure it is worthy of respect.

At the start of a new century, the world needs the United Nations to live up to its ideals and fulfill its mission. The founding members of this organization knew that the security of the world would increasingly depend on advancing the rights of mankind, and this would require the work of many hands. After committing America to the idea of the U.N. in 1945, President Franklin Roosevelt declared: "The structure of world peace cannot be the work of one man or one party or one nation." Peace is the responsibility of every nation and every generation.

In each era of history, the human spirit has been challenged by the forces of darkness and chaos. Some challenges are the acts of nature; others are the works of man. This organization was convened to meet these challenges by harnessing the best instincts of humankind, the strength of the world united in common purpose.

With courage and conscience, we will meet our responsibilities to protect the lives and rights of others. And when we do, we will help fulfill the promise of the United Nations and ensure that every human being enjoys the peace and the freedom and the dignity our Creator intended for all.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:48 a.m. in the General Assembly Chamber at the United Nations Headquarters. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel in New York City

September 14, 2005

President Bush. Mr. Prime Minister, thank you. I'm looking forward to our meeting. I've said several times publicly that I am inspired by your courageous decision to give peace a chance. And I know it was hard, but I admire your courage. And I look forward to talking to you about how we can get on the roadmap.

One thing is essential, and the world must hear, that now is the time for Palestinians to come together and establish a Government that will be peaceful with Israel. And the Gaza is a good chance to start, and I know that the Israeli Government wants to see that happen as well.

The world needs to help the Palestinians. The Arab neighbors need to help the Palestinians develop an economy. Now is the time for people to step up. It's an opportunity that was created by a bold decision, and I want to work together to see the vision of peace come to be.

So, Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for being here.

Prime Minister Sharon. Thank you. Mr. President, I'm glad to meet with you again. I'm glad that we are working together in order to achieve peace in the region.

President Bush. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:22 a.m. at the United Nations Headquarters. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at the United Nations Security Council Summit in New York City

September 14, 2005

Thank you, Madam President. I appreciate all the members of the Security Council for participating in this Summit. Our presence here reaffirms the seriousness of the challenges we face and our determined—determination to confront them.

We meet just over 2 months after the terror attacks in London, 1 year after the terrorist massacre of schoolchildren in Beslan, and 4 years after the terrorist attack in this city. Acts of terrorism like these emerge from a radical ideology that tolerates no dissent and justifies the murder of innocent people as the best way to achieve its goals.

Today we support a resolution sponsored by the United Kingdom that condemns the incitement of terrorist acts and calls on all states to take appropriate steps to end such incitement. I want to thank the Prime Minister and his government for their hard work on this issue. The United States of America strongly supports the implementation of this resolution.

We have a solemn obligation. We have a solemn obligation to stop terrorism in its early stages. We have a solemn obligation to defend our citizens against terrorism, to attack terrorist networks and deprive them of any safe haven, to promote an ideology of freedom and tolerance that will refute the dark vision of the terrorists.

We must do all we can to disrupt each stage of planning and support for terrorist acts. Each of us must act, consistent with past Security Council resolutions, to freeze terrorists' assets, to deny terrorists freedom of movement by using effective border controls and secure travel documents, to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons, including weapons of mass destruction. Each of us must act to share information to prevent a terrorist attacks before they happen. The United States will continue to work with and through the Security Council to help all nations meet these commitments.

The United States also reaffirms its commitment to support the prevention of unjust armed conflict, particularly in Africa, which

is why we have joined Algeria, Benin, and Tanzania in cosponsoring today's second important resolution. We support the need to improve the ability of the African Union and subregional organizations to deploy both civilian and military assets to prevent such conflicts. Over the next 5 years, the United States will provide training for more than 40,000 African peacekeepers as part of a broader initiative by the G-8 countries. We will help train African forces to preserve justice and order in Africa.

Terrorism and armed conflict are not only threats to our security; they're the enemies of development and freedom for millions. To help ensure the 21st century is one of freedom, security, and prosperity—I want to thank the members of the Security Council for supporting today's resolutions.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:50 a.m. in the Security Council Chamber at the United Nations Headquarters. In his remarks, he referred to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines, in her capacity as President to the U.N. Security Council; and Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

Remarks at a Luncheon Hosted by Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations in New York City

September 14, 2005

Mr. Secretary-General, distinguished members of the United Nations community, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, our country is honored to welcome you to New York. I'm pleased to be with you at the 60th session of the United Nations General Assembly, this year under the leadership of President Eliasson of Sweden.

We meet at a time of tragedy for this country, when citizens along our gulf coast are recovering from Hurricane Katrina. I just want you to know that Americans take comfort in knowing that we're not alone. I can't thank you enough for the outpouring of international support for our brothers and sisters who hurt. This international good will and outpouring of support reminds us there is no challenge we cannot overcome when the nations of the world unite in common.

That was the vision of the founders of the United Nations six decades ago. Our challenge is to extend this vision into the 21st century, and we need a strong United Nations to do so. The United States appreciates the commitment of Secretary-General Annan and the General Assembly and members of member states to reform the U.N. We have made a solid start. More work remains.

Our ongoing efforts together will be crucial to enable the United Nations to fulfill the promises made 60 years ago.

Mr. Secretary-General, on this important anniversary I offer a toast to you and to the United Nations: May the U.N. embody the high ideals of its founding in the years to come.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:39 p.m. in the North Delegates Lounge at the United Nations Headquarters. In his remarks, he referred to Jan Eliasson, President of the 60th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Remarks at the National Dinner Celebrating 350 Years of Jewish Life in America

September 14, 2005

Thank you all very much. Thanks for the warm welcome. Thanks for the invitation to be here. My only regret is Laura is not with me. I left her behind to do some diplomacy in New York City. *[Laughter]*

Bob, I want to thank you for your kind introduction. I'm honored to accept this medal commemorating three-and-a-half centuries of Jewish life in America. I consider it a high honor to have been invited to celebrate with you.

Back in 1790, the Jewish congregation of Newport, Rhode Island, wrote to congratulate George Washington on his election as the country's first President. Some say he was the first George W. *[Laughter]* In his reply, President Washington thanked the congregation and pledged to defend vigorously the principle of religious liberty for all. He declared—here's what he said. He said, the United States “gives bigotry no sanction; to persecution, no assistance.” And he expressed his hope that the “stock of Abraham” would thrive in America.

In the centuries that followed, the stock of Abraham has thrived here like nowhere else. We're better and stronger—and we're a better and stronger and freer nation because so many Jews from countries all over the world have chosen to become American citizens.

I want to thank Rabbi Gary Zola, who is the chairman of the Commission for Commemorating 350 Years of American Jewish History. I want to thank Ken Bialkin, who is the chairman of the board of the American Jewish Historical Society. I want to thank Members of Congress who are here. I want to thank members of the diplomatic corps, especially the Ambassador from Israel, Danny Ayalon.

I want to thank two members of my Cabinet who've joined us, Secretary Alphonso Jackson of the Department of Housing and Urban Affairs, and his wife, Marcia, and Josh Bolten, who is the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

I appreciate the Archivist of the United States, who has joined us today, Allen Weinstein; Dr. Jim Billington, who is the Librarian of Congress.

I can't help but notice and welcome Ed Koch, the former mayor of New York City. I want to thank my friend Fred Zeidman from Houston, Texas, who's the Chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council—pay my respects to Lynn Schusterman, who's the president of the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, and Sid Lapidus, who's the president of the American Jewish Historical Society.

This may sound a little odd for a Methodist from Texas saying this, but I just came from a shul. I was just given the grand tour of the great American landmark, the Sixth & I Historic Synagogue. I want to thank Shelton Zuckerman and Abe Pollin for taking it upon themselves to restore this important historical site. If you haven't been there, you ought to go. It is a—there's a wonderfully warm feeling. I saw the devotion that has gone into restoring this jewel, which was built nearly a century ago, a jewel that houses three Torah scrolls rescued from the Holocaust. We're proud to have this great synagogue in the heart of our Nation's Capital,

and we're glad a new generation is revitalizing this house of God.

The story of the Jewish people in America is a story of America itself. The pilgrims considered this Nation a new Israel, a refuge from persecution in Europe. Early Americans named many of their cities after places in Hebrew Scripture, Bethel and New Canaan, Shiloh and Salem. And when the first Jews arrived here, the children of Israel saw America as the land of promise, a golden land where they could practice their faith in freedom and live in liberty.

When the first Jewish settlers came to our shores 350 [years] * ago, they were not immediately welcomed. Yet from the onset, the Jews who arrived here demonstrated a deep commitment to their new land. An immigrant named Asser Levy volunteered to serve in the New Amsterdam citizens guard, which, unfortunately, had a policy of refusing to admit Jews. That didn't bother Levy. He was determined, like many others who have followed him, to break down the barriers of discrimination. Within 2 years, he took his rightful spot along [alongside] * his fellow citizens in the guard. He was the first of many Jewish Americans who have proudly worn the uniform of the United States.

And one of the greatest Jewish soldiers America has ever known is Tibor Rubin. After surviving the Holocaust and the Nazi death camp, this young man came to America. He enlisted in the United States Army and fought in the Korean war. He was severely wounded and was later captured by the enemy. For 2½ years, he survived in a POW camp. He risked his life for his fellow soldiers nearly every night by smuggling extra food for those who were ill—it was a skill he had learned in the Nazi camps—and because of his daring, as many as 40 American lives were saved.

This evening, I'm happy to announce that next week I will bestow upon this great patriot our Nation's highest award for bravery, the Medal of Honor.

Jewish Americans have made countless contributions to our land. The prophet Jeremiah once called out to this—to his Nation, "seek the welfare of the city where I have

* White House correction.

“seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf.” For 350 years, American Jews have heeded these words, and you’ve prayed and worked for peace and freedom in America. Freedom to worship is why Jews came to America three-and-a-half centuries ago. It’s why the Jews settled in Israel over five decades ago.

Our two nations have a lot in common, when you think about it. We were both founded by immigrants escaping religious persecution in other lands. We both have built vibrant democracies. Both our countries are founded on certain basic beliefs, that there is an Almighty God who watches over the affairs of men and values every life. These ties have made us natural allies, and these ties will never be broken.

Earlier today I met in New York with Prime Minister Sharon and the Ambassador. I admire Prime Minister Sharon. He’s a man of courage. He’s a man of peace. Once again, I expressed this Nation’s commitment to defending the security and well-being of Israel. I also assured him that I will not waver when it comes to spreading freedom around the world. I understand this, that freedom is not America’s gift to the world; freedom is an Almighty God’s gift to each man and woman and child in this world.

Religious freedom is a foundation of fundamental human and civil rights. And when the United States promotes religious freedom, it is promoting the spread of democracy. And when we promote the spread of democracy, we are promoting the cause of peace.

Religious freedom is more than the freedom to practice one’s faith. It is also the obligation to respect the faith of others. So to stand for religious freedom, we must expose and confront the ancient hatred of anti-Semitism, wherever it is found. When we find anti-Semitism at home, we will confront it. When we find anti-Semitism abroad, we will condemn it. And we condemn the desecration of synagogues in Gaza that followed Israel’s withdrawal.

Under America’s system of religious freedom, church and state are separate. Still, we have learned that faith is not solely a private matter. Men and women throughout our his-

tory have acted on the words of Scripture, and they have made America a better, more hopeful place. When Rabbi Abraham Heschel marched with Martin Luther King, we saw modern-day prophets calling on America to honor its promises. We must allow people of faith to act on their convictions without facing discrimination.

And that’s why my administration has started a Faith-Based and Community Initiative, to call on the armies of compassion to help heal broken hearts. A few years ago in New York, the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty was discouraged from even applying for Federal funds because it had the word “Jewish” in its name. We must end this kind of discrimination if we want America to be a hopeful place.

At this moment, volunteers from all walks of life, across our great land, are helping the good folks of Alabama and Mississippi and Louisiana recover from one of the worst natural disasters in our Nation’s history. The outpouring of compassion is phenomenal. American Jewish organizations have already raised over \$10 million, plus the \$50,000 tonight, for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

About half of the 10,000 Jewish Americans who call New Orleans home found refuge in Houston. Rabbi Barry Gelman of the United Orthodox Synagogues of Houston immediately helped organize a task force to aid the evacuees. Five major Israeli universities with study-abroad programs are opening their doors to college students whose schools have been shut down by the storm.

These are the good works of good people relying on the wisdom of the Good Book, a book that tells us how God rescued life from the flood waters. And like Noah and his family, we have faith that as the waters recede, we will see life begin again.

I want to thank you for your patriotism. I want to thank you for compassion. I want to thank you for your love for the United States of America. All of America is grateful to the Jewish people for the treasures you have given us over the past 350 years.

May God bless you, and may God continue to bless our country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:55 p.m. at the National Building Museum. In his remarks, he referred to Robert S. Rifkind, chairman of the governing board, Celebrate 350: Jewish Life in America, 1654–2004, who introduced the President; Gary Zola, chairman, Commission to Commemorate 350 Years of American Jewish History; Lynn Schusterman, co-founder, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation; Shelton Zuckerman, vice president and secretary, and Abe Pollin, president, Sixth & I Historic Synagogue; and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel.

Presidential Determination on Major Drug Transit or Major Illicit Drug Producing Countries for Fiscal Year 2006

September 14, 2005

Presidential Determination No. 2005–36

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Presidential Determination on Major Drug Transit or Major Illicit Drug Producing Countries for Fiscal Year 2006

Pursuant to section 706(1) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–228)(FRAA), I hereby identify the following countries as major drug transit or major illicit drug producing countries: Afghanistan, The Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela.

A country's presence on the Majors List is not necessarily an adverse reflection of its government's counternarcotics efforts or level of cooperation with the United States. Consistent with the statutory definition of a major drug-transit or drug-producing country set forth in section 481(e)(2) and (5) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (FAA), one of the reasons that major drug transit or illicit drug producing countries are placed on the list is the combination of geographical, commercial, and economic factors that allow drugs to transit or be produced despite the concerned government's most assiduous enforcement measures.

Pursuant to section 706(2)(A) of the FRAA, I hereby designate Burma and Venezuela as countries that have failed demonstrably during the previous 12 months to adhere to their obligations under international counternarcotics agreements and take the measures set forth in section 489(a)(1) of the FAA. Attached to this report (Tab A) are justifications for the determinations on Burma and Venezuela, as required by section 706(2)(B).

I have also determined, in accordance with provisions of section 706(3)(A) of the FRAA, that support for programs to aid Venezuela's democratic institutions, establish selected community development projects, and strengthen Venezuela's political party system is vital to the national interests of the United States.

I have removed China and Vietnam from the list of major drug transit or major illicit drug producing countries because there is insufficient evidence to suggest that China is a major source zone or transit country for illicit narcotics that significantly affect the United States. There is insufficient evidence to refute claims by the Government of Vietnam that they have virtually eliminated opium poppy production. Additionally, although cooperation with United States law enforcement is limited, there are no indications of a significant Vietnam-based drug threat to the United States.

Despite the Government of Afghanistan's counternarcotics efforts, we remain concerned about the disturbing magnitude of the drug trade and the prospect that opium poppy cultivation will likely increase in 2006. We are also concerned about government corruption, especially at the regional and local levels, impeding counternarcotics efforts. For these efforts to be effective, government corruption with respect to the opium economy must be seriously addressed—by both local and central government authorities.

The Government of Canada has made real progress in curbing the diversion into the United States of pseudoephedrine, which fuels the production of methamphetamine. There are indications, however, that Canadian-based criminal groups are increasingly

involved in the production of MDMA (Ecstasy) destined for the United States. Large scale cross-border trafficking of Canadian-grown marijuana remains a serious concern. The United States appreciates the excellent law enforcement cooperation with Canada in combating these shared threats.

While Haiti made efforts this year to improve its performance, we reiterate our concerns from last year about the Interim Government of Haiti's inability to effectively organize Haitian law enforcement resources to permit sustained counternarcotics efforts. Further, the national criminal justice system must be significantly strengthened in order to be effective and gain public confidence.

The Government of The Netherlands has achieved considerable success in countering the production and flow of MDMA (Ecstasy) to the United States, and The Netherlands is commended for its enhanced efforts. In the coming year, the United States would like to build upon our law enforcement cooperation with the Dutch government through advancements in mutual legal assistance and direct engagement between our respective police agencies.

Drug trafficking, money laundering, and other organized criminal activity in Nigeria remain major sources of concern to the United States. Progress over the past year on anti-money laundering controls is welcome, but much remains to be done to make such controls effective. Implementing anti-corruption policies must advance more quickly, as corruption at all levels of government continues to hamper effective narcotics law enforcement. In addition, measures similar to those taken to improve drug law enforcement at Nigeria's main airport need to be expanded to, and replicated at, Nigeria's seaports, where drug trafficking is a growing concern. Finally, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) and other counternarcotics institutions should work towards developing the mindset and capacity to pursue investigations, and prosecutions of major drug traffickers based in the country.

We remain concerned with the continued involvement by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in criminal activity, including drug production and drug trafficking. Given the close relationship between

Japanese and Chinese criminal elements and DPRK drug traffickers in past smuggling incidents, there is a real possibility of continuing DPRK involvement in drug trafficking, even when a given incident appears only to involve ethnic Chinese or other organized Asian criminal groups.

You are hereby authorized and directed to submit this determination to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 15.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report of the
Defense Base Closure and
Realignment Commission**
September 15, 2005

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith the report containing the recommendations of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission pursuant to sections 2903 and 2914 of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, Public Law 101-510, 104 Stat. 1810, as amended. That report includes changes referenced in errata sheets submitted to me by the Commission, including the enclosed errata sheets dated September 8, September 9, September 12, and September 13, 2005.

I note that I am in receipt of a letter from Chairman Principi, dated September 8, 2005, regarding a district court injunction then in effect relating to the Bradley International Airport Air Guard Station in Windsor Locks, Connecticut. Chairman Principi's letter states that, as a result of that injunction, "you should consider the portion of Recommendation 85 . . . that recommends realignment of the Connecticut 103rd Fighter Wing withdrawn from the Commission's report." The Chairman's letter further states that "[i]f the court's injunction is later vacated, reversed, stayed, or otherwise withdrawn, it is the intent of the Commission that the entirety of the recommendation be a part of the Commission's report." On September 9, 2005, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit granted a stay of the district

court's injunction. Because the injunction is no longer in effect, Recommendation 85 in its entirety is part of the Commission's report.

I certify that I approve all the recommendations contained in the Commission's report.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 15, 2005.

Address to the Nation on Hurricane Katrina Recovery From New Orleans, Louisiana

September 15, 2005

Good evening. I'm speaking to you from the city of New Orleans, nearly empty, still partly under water, and waiting for life and hope to return. Eastward from Lake Pontchartrain, across the Mississippi coast to Alabama into Florida, millions of lives were changed in a day by a cruel and wasteful storm.

In the aftermath, we have seen fellow citizens left stunned and uprooted, searching for loved ones and grieving for the dead and looking for meaning in a tragedy that seems so blind and random. We've also witnessed the kind of desperation no citizen of this great and generous Nation should ever have to know, fellow Americans calling out for food and water, vulnerable people left at the mercy of criminals who had no mercy, and the bodies of the dead lying uncovered and untended in the street.

These days of sorrow and outrage have also been marked by acts of courage and kindness that make all Americans proud. Coast Guard and other personnel rescued tens of thousands of people from flooded neighborhoods. Religious congregations and families have welcomed strangers as brothers and sisters and neighbors. In the community of Chalmette, when two men tried to break into a home, the owner invited them to stay and took in 15 other people who had no place to go. At Tulane Hospital for Children, doctors and nurses did not eat for days so patients could have food and eventually carried

the patients on their backs up eight flights of stairs to helicopters.

Many first-responders were victims themselves, wounded healers with a sense of duty greater than their own suffering. When I met Steve Scott of the Biloxi Fire Department, he and his colleagues were conducting a house-to-house search for survivors. Steve told me this: "I lost my house, and I lost my cars, but I still got my family, and I still got my spirit."

Across the gulf coast, among people who have lost much and suffered much and given to the limit of their power, we are seeing that same spirit, a core of strength that survives all hurt, a faith in God no storm can take away, and a powerful American determination to clear the ruins and build better than before.

Tonight so many victims of the hurricane and the flood are far from home and friends and familiar things. You need to know that our whole Nation cares about you, and in the journey ahead, you're not alone. To all who carry a burden of loss, I extend the deepest sympathy of our country. To every person who has served and sacrificed in this emergency, I offer the gratitude of our country.

And tonight I also offer this pledge of the American people: Throughout the area hit by the hurricane, we will do what it takes; we will stay as long as it takes to help citizens rebuild their communities and their lives. And all who question the future of the Crescent City need to know there is no way to imagine America without New Orleans, and this great city will rise again.

The work of rescue is largely finished. The work of recovery is moving forward. In nearly all of Mississippi, electric power has been restored. Trade is starting to return to the Port of New Orleans, and agricultural shipments are moving down the Mississippi River. All major gasoline pipelines are now in operation, preventing the supply disruptions that many feared. The breaks in the levees have been closed. The pumps are running, and the water here in New Orleans is receding by the hour. Environmental officials are on the ground, taking water samples, identifying and dealing with hazardous debris, and working to get drinking water and waste water

treatment systems operating again. And some very sad duties are being carried out by professionals who gather the dead, treat them with respect, and prepare them for their rest.

In the task of recovery and rebuilding, some of the hardest work is still ahead, and it will require the creative skill and generosity of a united country.

Our first commitment is to meet the immediate needs of those who had to flee their homes and leave all their possessions behind. For these Americans, every night brings uncertainty; every day requires new courage; and in the months to come will bring more than their fair share of struggles.

The Department of Homeland Security is registering evacuees who are now in shelters and churches or private homes, whether in the gulf region or far away. I have signed an order providing immediate assistance to people from the disaster area. As of today, more than 500,000 evacuee families have gotten emergency help to pay for food, clothing, and other essentials. Evacuees who have not yet registered should contact FEMA or the Red Cross. We need to know who you are, because many of you will be eligible for broader assistance in the future.

Many families were separated during the evacuation, and we are working to help you reunite. Please call this number: 1-877-568-3317—that's 1-877-568-3317—and we will work to bring your family back together and pay for your travel to reach them. In addition, we're taking steps to ensure that evacuees do not have to travel great distances or navigate bureaucracies to get the benefits that are there for them.

The Department of Health and Human Services has sent more than 1,500 health professionals along with over 50 tons of medical supplies, including vaccines and antibiotics and medicines for people with chronic conditions such as diabetes. The Social Security Administration is delivering checks. The Department of Labor is helping displaced persons apply for temporary jobs and unemployment benefits. And the Postal Service is registering new addresses so that people can get their mail.

To carry out the first stages of the relief effort and begin rebuilding at once, I have asked for and the Congress has provided

more than \$60 billion. This is an unprecedented response to an unprecedented crisis, which demonstrates the compassion and resolve of our Nation.

Our second commitment is to help the citizens of the gulf coast to overcome this disaster, put their lives back together, and rebuild their communities. Along this coast, for mile after mile, the wind and water swept the land clean. In Mississippi, many thousands of houses were damaged or destroyed. In New Orleans and surrounding parishes, more than a quarter-million houses are no longer safe to live in. Hundreds of thousands of people from across this region will need to find longer term housing.

Our goal is to get people out of the shelters by the middle of October. So we're providing direct assistance to evacuees that allows them to rent apartments, and many are already moving into places of their own. A number of States have taken in evacuees and shown them great compassion, admitting children to school and providing health care. So I will work with the Congress to ensure that States are reimbursed for these extra expenses.

In the disaster area and in cities that have received huge numbers of displaced people, we're beginning to bring in mobile homes and trailers for temporary use. To relieve the burden on local health care facilities in the region, we're sending extra doctors and nurses to these areas. We're also providing money that can be used to cover overtime pay for police and fire departments, while the cities and towns rebuild.

Near New Orleans and Biloxi and other cities, housing is urgently needed for police and firefighters, other service providers, and the many workers who are going to rebuild these cities. Right now many are sleeping on ships we have brought to the Port of New Orleans, and more ships are on their way to the region. And we'll provide mobile homes and supply them with basic services as close to construction areas as possible, so the rebuilding process can go forward as quickly as possible.

And the Federal Government will undertake a close partnership with the States of Louisiana and Mississippi, the city of New Orleans and other gulf coast cities, so they can rebuild in a sensible, well-planned way.

Federal funds will cover the great majority of the costs of repairing public infrastructure in the disaster zone, from roads and bridges to schools and water systems. Our goal is to get the work done quickly. And taxpayers expect this work to be done honestly and wisely, so we'll have a team of inspectors general reviewing all expenditures.

In the rebuilding process, there will be many important decisions and many details to resolve, yet we're moving forward according to some clear principles. The Federal Government will be fully engaged in the mission, but Governor Barbour, Governor Blanco, Mayor Nagin, and other State and local leaders will have the primary role in planning for their own future. Clearly, communities will need to move decisively to change zoning laws and building codes in order to avoid a repeat of what we've seen. And in the work of rebuilding, as many jobs as possible should go to the men and women who live in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Our third commitment is this: When communities are rebuilt, they must be even better and stronger than before the storm. Within the gulf region are some of the most beautiful and historic places in America. As all of us saw on television, there's also some deep, persistent poverty in this region as well. That poverty has roots in a history of racial discrimination, which cut off generations from the opportunity of America. We have a duty to confront this poverty with bold action. So let us restore all that we have cherished from yesterday, and let us rise above the legacy of inequality. When the streets are rebuilt, there should be many new businesses, including minority-owned businesses, along those streets. When the houses are rebuilt, more families should own, not rent, those houses. When the regional economy revives, local people should be prepared for the jobs being created.

Americans want the gulf coast not just to survive but to thrive, not just to cope but to overcome. We want evacuees to come home for the best of reasons, because they have a real chance at a better life in a place they love.

When one resident of this city who lost his home was asked by a reporter if he would relocate, he said, "Naw, I will rebuild, but

I will build higher." That is our vision for the future, in this city and beyond: We'll not just rebuild; we'll build higher and better. To meet this goal, I will listen to good ideas from Congress, and State and local officials, and the private sector. I believe we should start with three initiatives that the Congress should pass.

Tonight I propose the creation of a Gulf Opportunity Zone, encompassing the region of the disaster in Louisiana and Mississippi and Alabama. Within this zone, we should provide immediate incentives for job-creating investment, tax relief for small businesses, incentives to companies that create jobs, and loans and loan guarantees for small businesses, including minority-owned enterprises, to get them up and running again. It is entrepreneurship that creates jobs and opportunity. It is entrepreneurship that helps break the cycle of poverty, and we will take the side of entrepreneurs as they lead the economic revival of the gulf region.

I propose the creation of Worker Recovery Accounts to help those evacuees who need extra help finding work. Under this plan, the Federal Government would provide accounts of up to \$5,000, which these evacuees could draw upon for job training and education to help them get a good job and for child care expenses during their job search.

And to help lower income citizens in the hurricane region build new and better lives, I also propose that Congress pass an urban homesteading act. Under this approach, we will identify property in the region owned by the Federal Government and provide building sites to low-income citizens free of charge, through a lottery. In return, they would pledge to build on the lot, with either a mortgage or help from a charitable organization like Habitat for Humanity. Homeownership is one of the great strengths of any community, and it must be a central part of our vision for the revival of this region.

In the long run, the New Orleans area has a particular challenge, because much of the city lies below sea level. The people who call it home need to have reassurance that their lives will be safer in the years to come. Protecting a city that sits lower than the water around it is not easy, but it can and has been

done. City and parish officials in New Orleans and State officials in Louisiana will have a large part in the engineering decisions to come. And the Army Corps of Engineers will work at their side to make the flood protection system stronger than it has ever been.

The work that has begun in the gulf coast region will be one of the largest reconstruction efforts the world has ever seen. When that job is done, all Americans will have something to be very proud of, and all Americans are needed in this common effort. It is the armies of compassion, charities and houses of worship and idealistic men and women, that give our reconstruction effort its humanity. They offer to those who hurt a friendly face, an arm around the shoulder, and the reassurance that in hard times, they can count on someone who cares. By land, by sea, and by air, good people wanting to make a difference deployed to the gulf coast, and they've been working around the clock ever since.

The cash needed to support the armies of compassion is great, and Americans have given generously. For example, the private fundraising effort led by former Presidents Bush and Clinton has already received pledges of more than \$100 million. Some of that money is going to the Governors to be used for immediate needs within their States. A portion will also be sent to local houses of worship to help reimburse them for the expense of helping others. This evening the need is still urgent, and I ask the American people to continue donating to the Salvation Army, the Red Cross, other good charities, and religious congregations in the region.

It's also essential for the many organizations of our country to reach out to your fellow citizens in the gulf area. So I've asked USA Freedom Corps to create an information clearinghouse, available at usafreedomcorps.gov, so that families anywhere in the country can find opportunities to help families in the region, or a school can support a school. And I challenge existing organizations, churches and Scout troops or labor union locals, to get in touch with their counterparts in Mississippi, Louisiana, or Alabama and learn what they can do to help. In this great national enterprise, important

work can be done by everyone, and everyone should find their role and do their part.

The Government of this Nation will do its part as well. Our cities must have clear and up-to-date plans for responding to natural disasters and disease outbreaks or a terrorist attack, for evacuating large numbers of people in an emergency, and for providing the food and water and security they would need. In a time of terror threats and weapons of mass destruction, the danger to our citizens reaches much wider than a faultline or a flood plain. I consider detailed emergency planning to be a national security priority, and therefore, I've ordered the Department of Homeland Security to undertake an immediate review, in cooperation with local counterparts, of emergency plans in every major city in America.

I also want to know all the facts about the Government response to Hurricane Katrina. The storm involved a massive flood, a major supply and security operation, and an evacuation order affecting more than a million people. It was not a normal hurricane, and the normal disaster relief system was not equal to it. Many of the men and women of the Coast Guard, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the United States military, the National Guard, Homeland Security, and State and local governments performed skillfully under the worst conditions. Yet the system, at every level of government, was not well-coordinated and was overwhelmed in the first few days. It is now clear that a challenge on this scale requires greater Federal authority and a broader role for the Armed Forces, the institution of our Government most capable of massive logistical operations on a moment's notice.

Four years after the frightening experience of September the 11th, Americans have every right to expect a more effective response in a time of emergency. When the Federal Government fails to meet such an obligation, I, as President, am responsible for the problem and for the solution. So I've ordered every Cabinet Secretary to participate in a comprehensive review of the Government response to the hurricane. This Government will learn the lessons of Hurricane Katrina. We're going to review every action and make necessary changes so that we are

better prepared for any challenge of nature or act of evil men that could threaten our people.

The United States Congress also has an important oversight function to perform. Congress is preparing an investigation, and I will work with members of both parties to make sure this effort is thorough.

In the life of this Nation, we have often been reminded that nature is an awesome force and that all life is fragile. We're the heirs of men and women who lived through those first terrible winters at Jamestown and Plymouth, who rebuilt Chicago after a great fire and San Francisco after a great earthquake, who reclaimed the prairie from the Dust Bowl of the 1930s. Every time, the people of this land have come back from fire, flood, and storm to build anew and to build better than what we had before. Americans have never left our destiny to the whims of nature, and we will not start now.

These trials have also reminded us that we are often stronger than we know—with the help of grace and one another. They remind us of a hope beyond all pain and death, a God who welcomes the lost to a house not made with hands. And they remind us that we're tied together in this life, in this Nation, and that the despair of any touches us all.

I know that when you sit on the steps of a porch where a home once stood or sleep on a cot in a crowded shelter, it is hard to imagine a bright future. But that future will come. The streets of Biloxi and Gulfport will again be filled with lovely homes and the sound of children playing. The churches of Alabama will have their broken steeples mended and their congregations whole. And here in New Orleans, the streetcars will once again rumble down St. Charles, and the passionate soul of a great city will return.

In this place, there's a custom for the funerals of jazz musicians. The funeral procession parades slowly through the streets, followed by a band playing a mournful dirge as it moves to the cemetery. Once the casket has been laid in place, the band breaks into a joyful "second line," symbolizing the triumph of the spirit over death. Tonight the gulf coast is still coming through the dirge, yet we will live to see the second line.

Thank you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:02 p.m. at Jackson Square. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Haley Barbour of Mississippi; Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco of Louisiana; and Mayor C. Ray Nagin of New Orleans, LA. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks at the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance Service

September 16, 2005

On this Day of Prayer and Remembrance, our Nation remains in the shadow of a storm that departed 2 weeks ago. We're humbled by the vast and indifferent might of nature and feel small beside its power. We commend the departed to God. We mourn with those who mourn, and we ask for strength in the work ahead.

The destruction is immense, covering a city, a coastline, a region. Yet the hurt always comes down to one life, one family. We've seen the panic of loved ones separated from each other, the lonely pain of people whose earthly possessions were swept away, and the uncertainty of men and women and children driven away from the lives they knew. Many did not survive the fury of the storm. Many who did ask, "Why?" and wonder, "What comes next?"

In this hour of suffering, we're prayerful. In a wounded region, so many place their faith in a God who hears and helps. And so many are bringing their grief to a Savior acquainted with grief. Our Nation joins with them to pray for comfort and sorrow, for the reunion of separated families, and a holy rest for the ones who died.

Through prayer, we look for ways to understand the arbitrary harm left by this storm and the mystery of undeserved suffering. And in our search, we're reminded that God's purposes are sometimes impossible to know here on Earth. Yet even as we're humbled by forces we cannot explain, we take comfort in the knowledge that no one is ever stranded beyond God's care. The Creator of wind and water is also the source of even a greater power, a love that can redeem the worst tragedy, a love that is stronger than death.

In this hour of suffering, our Nation is thankful. We have been inspired by acts of courage and goodness: Coast Guardsmen and military personnel reaching out of helicopters and lifting victims from rooftops; firefighters wading through mud and debris to search for victims and survivors; doctors and nurses defying danger so their patients might live. Many of those who saved others lost their own homes and were separated from their own families. And many stories of heroism and rescue will never be told because they are known to God alone.

We're thankful for a spirit, seen across the gulf coast, that faces the worst and chooses to hope. We're thankful as well for the many ordinary citizens who heard the cries of neighbors and answered them. Across the country, Americans saw the hungry and gave them something to eat, saw the thirsty and gave them something to drink, saw strangers and invited them in. One man who was rescued and given shelter after the storm said, "I didn't think there was so much love in the world."

In this hour of suffering, our Nation is also mindful of the work ahead. Through this tragedy, great duties have come to our Nation. The destruction of this hurricane was beyond any human power to control, but the restoration of broken communities and disrupted lives now rests in our hands. And we accept this responsibility not as a burden or a chore but as an opportunity to serve our fellow Americans, as they would do for us.

This task will measure our unity as a people. Americans of every race and religion were touched by this storm, yet some of the greatest hardship fell upon citizens already facing lives of struggle, the elderly, the vulnerable, and the poor. And this poverty has roots in generations of segregation and discrimination that closed many doors of opportunity. As we clear away the debris of a hurricane, let us also clear away the legacy of inequality. Let us deliver new hope to communities that were suffering before the storm. As we rebuild homes and businesses, we will renew our promise as a land of equality and decency. And one day, Americans will look back at the response to Hurricane Katrina and say that our country grew not only in prosperity but in character and justice.

On this National Day of Prayer and Remembrance, we pledge ourselves to the demanding work of revival and renew the faith and hope that will carry that work to completion. In the worst of storms and in the rush of flood waters, even the strongest faith can be tested. Yet the Scriptures assure us, "Many waters cannot quench love; neither can the floods drown it."

So now we go forward, confident in the good heart of America and trusting that even among the ruins, the love of God remains at work.

May God bless and keep the souls of the lost. May His love touch all those in need, and may He always watch over the United States of America. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:58 a.m. at the Washington National Cathedral.

Proclamation 7930—National POW/MIA Recognition Day, 2005

September 16, 2005

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

In every generation, members of our Armed Forces have answered the call of service in our Nation's hour of need. These patriots have defended our freedom and way of life, triumphed over brutal enemies, and answered the prayers of millions. On National POW/MIA Recognition Day, we honor the Americans who have been prisoners of war and recognize them for enduring unimaginable hardships while serving in military conflicts around the globe. We also remember those who are still missing in action, and we renew our commitment to keep searching until we have accounted for every Soldier, Sailor, Airman, and Marine missing in the line of duty.

On National POW/MIA Recognition Day, the flag of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia is flown over the White House, the Capitol, the Departments of State, Defense, and Veterans Affairs, the Selective Service System Headquarters, the National Vietnam

Veterans and Korean War Veterans Memorials, U.S. Military Installations, national cemeteries, and other locations across our country. The flag is a reminder of our continued commitment to those brave patriots imprisoned while serving in conflicts around the world and of our pledge to continue to achieve the fullest possible accounting for all our men and women in uniform who are still missing. Americans are blessed with the freedom made possible by the service and sacrifice of so many. On National POW/MIA Recognition Day, our entire Nation honors and pays special tribute to our prisoners of war and those who remain missing.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Friday, September 16, 2005, as National POW/MIA Recognition Day. I call upon the people of the United States to join me in saluting all American POWs and those missing in action who valiantly served our country. I call upon Federal, State, and local government officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 19, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 20.

Proclamation 7931—National Hispanic Heritage Month, 2005
September 16, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Throughout our history, America has been a land of diversity and has benefitted from the contributions of people of different backgrounds brought together by a love of liberty.

During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we celebrate the achievements of Hispanic Americans and the significant role they have played in making our Nation strong, prosperous, and free.

The contributions of Hispanic Americans have made a positive impact on every part of our society. Americans of Hispanic descent are astronauts and athletes, doctors and teachers, lawyers and scientists. The vibrancy of our Nation's Hispanic performers enriches music, dancing, and the arts. Hispanic Americans serve at every level of government, including as Attorney General of the United States and Secretary of Commerce. Latino entrepreneurs are starting and growing businesses all across America, creating jobs and opportunities. The hard work and determination of Hispanic Americans continue to inspire all those who dream of a better life for themselves and their families.

Our Nation's Hispanic community has contributed to the advance of freedom abroad and to the defense of freedom at home. In every generation, Hispanic Americans have served valiantly in the United States military. Today there are more than 200,000 Hispanic Americans serving in the Armed Forces, and our Nation is grateful for their courage and sacrifice. In addition, thousands of Hispanic Americans are helping to defend and protect our homeland by serving as police officers and firefighters. All Americans are thankful for their daily work in helping to keep our Nation safe.

During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we join together to recognize the proud history and rich culture of Hispanic Americans. To honor the achievements of Hispanic Americans, the Congress, by Public Law 100-402, as amended, has authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation designating September 15 through October 15 as "National Hispanic Heritage Month."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 15 through October 15, 2005, as National Hispanic Heritage Month. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the

United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 20, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 21.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

September 10

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine. He then had an intelligence briefing and a briefing on Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts.

The President declared an emergency in Alabama and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts to assist evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emergency assistance to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in Indiana and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts to assist evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emergency assistance to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in Iowa and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts to assist evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emergency assistance

to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in Kansas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts to assist evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emergency assistance to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in Kentucky and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local response efforts to assist evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emergency assistance to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in Missouri and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts to assist evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emergency assistance to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in Pennsylvania and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local response efforts to assist evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emergency assistance to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in South Carolina and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts to assist evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emergency assistance to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in South Dakota and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts to assist evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emergency assistance to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

September 11

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush went to St. John's Episcopal Church where they attended a prayer and remembrance service to commemorate the anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. They then returned to the White

House where, on the South Lawn, they observed a moment of silence.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to New Orleans, LA, where he went to the U.S.S. *Iwo Jima*, docked near New Orleans.

In the evening, the President went to a staging area in New Orleans where he met with first-responders involved with Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. Later, he returned to the U.S.S. *Iwo Jima*.

September 12

In the morning, aboard the U.S.S. *Iwo Jima*, the President, Mayor C. Ray Nagin of New Orleans, LA, and Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honore, USA, commanding general, First United States Army, received a briefing by Vice Adm. Thad W. Allen, USCG, U.S. Coast Guard Chief of Staff, on Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts.

Later in the morning, the President went to New Orleans where he, Mayor Nagin, and Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco of Louisiana toured the areas damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Later, he took an aerial tour of the damaged areas, concluding in Gulfport, MS, where, upon arrival, he met with Gov. Haley Barbour of Mississippi, Mayor Brent Warr of Gulfport, MS, and other local officials.

In the afternoon, the President met with U.S. and Mexico first-responders involved with Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. He also met with individuals at a hurricane assistance center. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to designate R. David Paulison as Acting Under Secretary for Emergency Preparedness and Response.

The President declared an emergency in Arizona and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts to assist evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emergency assistance to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in Virginia and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local response efforts to assist evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emer-

gency assistance to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

September 13

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan to congratulate him on his election victory. Later, he had an intelligence briefing and a briefing on Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts.

Later in the morning, in the Oval Office, the President met with President Jalal Talabani of the Iraqi Transitional Government. Later, in the Old Family Dining Room, they had lunch.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to New York City, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Jim Shevlin.

Later in the afternoon, at the United Nations Headquarters, the President met with Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations. Later, he paid a courtesy call on President of the 60th Session of the United Nations General Assembly Jan Eliasson.

In the evening, at the Waldorf-Astoria, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a reception for leaders of the United Nations General Assembly.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael R. Arietti to be Ambassador to Rwanda.

The President announced his intention to nominate Karan K. Bhatia to be Deputy U.S. Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board: Jean Loretta Becker; Linnet F. Deily; Thomas E. Corts; and Yousif Boutrous Ghafari.

September 14

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing and a briefing on Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. Later, he and Mrs. Bush went to the United Nations Headquarters, where, upon arrival, he signed the Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

Later in the morning, the President met with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC. Later, he went to the Sixth & I Historic Synagogue.

In the evening, the President returned to the White House.

The President declared an emergency in California and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts to assist evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emergency assistance to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in Connecticut and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts to assist evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emergency assistance to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in Idaho and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts to assist evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emergency assistance to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in Maryland and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts to assist evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emergency assistance to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in Massachusetts and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local response efforts to assist evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emergency assistance to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in Minnesota and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts to assist evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emergency assistance to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in Montana and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts to assist

evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emergency assistance to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in Nebraska and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts to assist evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emergency assistance to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in Nevada and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts to assist evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emergency assistance to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in North Dakota and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts to assist evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emergency assistance to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in Ohio and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts to assist evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emergency assistance to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in Wisconsin and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts to assist evacuees from the area struck by Hurricane Katrina and to provide emergency assistance to those areas beginning on August 29 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in North Carolina and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts for the counties located in the direct path of Hurricane Ophelia beginning on September 11 and continuing.

September 15

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Hamid Karzai to discuss the elections in Afghanistan to be held September 18. He then had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister-

elect Jens Stoltenberg of Norway to congratulate him on his election victory.

Later in the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He and Vice President Dick Cheney then had a briefing on Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. Later, in the Family Theater, he participated in a speech preparation session for his address to the Nation later in the day.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Pascagoula, MS. Later, at the Chevron Pascagoula Refinery, he and Gov. Haley Barbour of Mississippi had a briefing by refinery manager Roland Kell.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to New Orleans, LA, where he went to the U.S.S. *Iwo Jima*, docked near New Orleans. Upon arrival, he met with Mayor C. Ray Nagin of New Orleans, LA, Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco of Louisiana, Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff, and Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honore, USA, commanding general, First United States Army.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Edwin G. Foulke, Jr., to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor (Occupational Safety and Health).

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard Stickler to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health.

The President announced his intention to designate Santanu K. Baruah as Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development.

September 16

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing and a briefing on Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Thaksin Chinnawat of Thailand to the White House on September 19.

The White House announced that the President will welcome King Abdullah II of

Jordan to the White House on September 22.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted September 13

Shana L. Dale,
of Georgia, to be Deputy Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, vice Frederick D. Gregory.

Donald A. Gambatesa,
of Virginia, to be Inspector General, U.S. Agency for International Development, vice Everett L. Mosley.

Carmen Maria Martinez,
of Florida, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Zambia.

Gregory F. Van Tatenhove,
of Kentucky, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky, vice Karl S. Forester, retired.

Submitted September 15

Michael R. Arietti,
of Connecticut, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Rwanda.

Karan K. Bhatia,
of Maryland, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, vice Josette Sheeran Shiner.

Edwin G. Foulke, Jr.,
of South Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, vice John Lester Henshaw.

Richard Stickler, of West Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health, vice David D. Lauriski, resigned.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released September 10

Statement by the Press Secretary: Egyptian Presidential Elections

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Alabama

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Indiana

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Iowa

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Kansas

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Kentucky

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Missouri

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Pennsylvania

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to South Carolina

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to South Dakota

Released September 12

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Arizona

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Virginia

Released September 13

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Council Senior Director for Asian Af-

fairs Mike Green on the President's meeting with President Hu Jintao of China

Released September 14

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy National Security Adviser Faryar Shirzad

Fact sheet: President Bush Addresses the United Nations General Assembly

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to California

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Connecticut

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Idaho

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Maryland

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Massachusetts

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Minnesota

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Montana

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Nebraska

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Nevada

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to North Dakota

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Ohio

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Wisconsin

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to North Carolina

Released September 15

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing the President has authorized the Secretary of State to transmit to Congress the annual report listing major illicit drug-producing and drug-transit countries

Excerpts of the President's address to the Nation on recovery from Hurricane Katrina

Advance text of the President's address to the Nation on recovery from Hurricane Katrina

Fact sheet: President Bush Addresses the Nation on Recovery From Katrina

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by King Abdullah of Jordan to Washington

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Prime Minister Thaksin of Thailand

Released September 16

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy Claude Allen, and Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and National Economic Council Director Allan B. Hubbard

**Acts Approved
by the President**

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.